

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

We often hear various Presidents and other public officials speak of their concern for their legacy and how they will be remembered. A certain amount of self-centeredness (ego) is always going to be in those who seek public office. It is simply a part of the corruptible nature of man which the LORD does ordain and direct in a useful manner.

While this trait of desiring remembrance is prominent in politicians, there is a bit of it in all men born of Adam's race. One only has to ride by a cemetery and notice the monuments which are there, marking out the place where each one of the dead reside, to see that this is true. The natural man desires not to be forgotten and so he is willing to heap accolades upon the departed, hoping that the favor will be returned to him when his time upon the earth is done. This is in large part what drives the funeral industry and factors into many of the common practices which are found in most funerals.

In Paul's words here to Timothy, we don't see him desiring to be remembered for the things which he had done. Rather he seeks to encourage Timothy to a faithful walk in the gospel by reminding him of those things which he saw and heard in Paul. Paul desired no accolades nor sought any monument erected in remembrance of him. He recounted (to the Philippians) the very grounds upon which he could, in the flesh, have reason to glory, yet he summed all of it up as "*dung*". Paul clearly understood that any good thing which might be discovered in him was simply the result of the work of GOD, in him, by sovereign grace.

When a man has been acquainted with his own corrupt nature and is convinced that only the grace of GOD causes him to differ from another, then the only place for him to glory is in that ONE who does all things well. Thus Paul, in his exhortation to Timothy, is merely recognizing that grace which the LORD has been pleased to exhibit in him, and his purpose in pointing this out to Timothy is that the NAME of CHRIST might be magnified in all things. He exhorts Timothy to recall those things that the LORD has demonstrated in himself. These include:

"*His doctrine*". No one else in the scriptures has been given a clearer view of the teachings of CHRIST as they are to be applied among the saints, in the preaching of the gospel, than the Apostle Paul. This doctrine can be summed up in what he said to the Corinthians, "*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*" (1Cor 2:2) and as he reiterated to the Colossians. "*Christ is all.*" (Col 3:11) Paul's "doctrine" was not with "*enticing words*", but in a demonstration of the power of the HOLY GHOST.

"His *Manner of life*". Paul did not say one thing and then do another. In fact he was not ashamed to say, "*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*"

"His *Purpose*". Paul was indeed a man with a single eye, he was focused upon the ONE OBJECT of his affection. His "purpose" was to exalt and honor JESUS CHRIST. No other motivation is to enter into the mind of those who would "follow him", most especially those who have been called to preach the unsearchable riches of CHRIST. Any preaching which does not give all glory and praise to CHRIST alone, cannot be the preaching of the gospel of CHRIST.

"His *Faith*". Paul understood the SOURCE of FAITH as well as its FOUNDATION. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*" (Eph 2:8) "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" (1Co 3:11)

"His *Longsuffering*". Paul exhorts the Philippians, "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*" (Php 2:3)

"His *Charity* or love" Paul understood that every event was an occasion to demonstrate love for the brethren rather than himself.

"His *Patience*". Paul was taught by the LORD that HIS grace is sufficient in all things.

"*Thy free grace alone,*" #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**