

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

All men shall stand before the LORD in judgment not as a group but as individuals just as each one must face death alone. *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* It is upon this very principle, that the LORD JESUS tasted death to procure redemption for “certain men” as individuals. *“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; (i.e.; a limited and specific number) and unto them (the same “many”) that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”* Just as surely as all men shall individually face judgment for their sins, so too did CHRIST make atonement for HIS people (i.e. many) as individuals which were chosen in HIM before the foundation of the world. This very fact overturns the notion that HIS atonement is general in nature as a blanket covering for the sins of all men. HE died for “certain men”, atoned for “certain sins”, and obtained a certain redemption for them. *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”* This is the basis upon which the sons of GOD have the HOPE of ETERNAL LIFE and expect to stand in the day of judgment, as those whose sin is covered by HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. The condemnation which rightly should have been theirs has fallen upon HIM who has delivered them from the curse of the law and granted unto them the right to be called the sons of GOD.

The curse of the law came upon a “certain man”; Lazarus of Bethany, as he fell sick and ultimately died as all men will. Lazarus death, while like all mortal men, was not unto “death” but unto “life” as the LORD ordained both his sickness and death to demonstrate HIS power over death itself in a most striking fashion. There is no doubt that the LORD could have prevented HIS friend Lazarus’s death by healing him of his disease, just as HE had many others, yet HE tarried on purpose upon being told about the illness of Lazarus, so that Lazarus might die.

“Certain men” were present on that day when the most startling of all the miracles which the LORD JESUS performed was carried out. “Certain” of those that gathered there were those who already believed the LORD’s teachings and loved HIM. They would be strengthened by what they saw. “Certain men” had perhaps heard of this MAN JESUS, who after what they witnessed, would be caused to believe in HIM. “Certain men” were there as spies who would report to the Pharisees of what they perceived to be a MAN of power who threatened the religious structure of the Jews. Not one of these “certain men” was there by chance or happenstance. Every step that each took was ordained by HIM who would demonstrate the power and sovereign right of GOD to make one vessel unto honor and another to dishonor as pleased HIM.

Martha, being of a very practical mind, expressed an objection when the LORD told the men to take away the stone which covered the tomb’s entrance. She was right to be concerned about the stench which would surely come forth from the rotting corpse of Lazarus. Yet this stench was itself ordained by the LORD so that there might be no doubt that Lazarus was dead. The LORD would have those “certain men”, which were present there to smell death itself and to understand that it is impossible for a man to live again apart from a supernatural work of GOD. A tree may be cut down and yet sprout from its root, but, when men die they return to the dust from whence they came. *“As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up: So man lieth down, and riseth not.”* The LORD had the stone removed as an illustration of the fact that the graves shall be opened and the dead in CHRIST shall be raised from the dust. The LORD *“cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.”* This was a call to a “certain man”, otherwise all of the dead would have come forth. Even so is the call of the LORD to each one of HIS children, quite specifically addressed to them, rather than some general invitation to all of mankind. *“The sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name.”* HE removed the stone from the grave’s mouth so that Lazarus could come out. The living have no place among the dead. *“Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.”* This is an illustration of the preaching of the Gospel to the sons of GOD who are made alive in CHRIST. *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* (2Cor 4:6) Until a man is awakened by the SPIRIT he cannot see the LIGHT which is shed forth in the preaching of the Gospel. *“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* Have you been quickened from the dead? *“Thy free grace alone,”* #11 **f you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at fortheepoor@windstream.net**