

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

Each time I read it, I am amazed at the LORD’s reply to Moses, as he requested to see the LORD’s glory. I can think of any number of responses which I would probably deem quite appropriate for such a request. Perhaps HE might have shown Moses (as HE did Isaiah) the grandeur of the angelic host which HE had created in an instant and who cease not day or night to cry out Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD GOD almighty who was and is and is to come. Or perhaps HE might have unfolded to him the vastness of the universe which HE spoke into being. Or HE could have given HIM a glimpse of the final judgment when all creation shall tremble before HIM. HE might even have revealed to HIM the vast knowledge which is hidden in HIS treasury of wisdom or HE might have showed HIM the majesty and riches which must surely surround HIS throne upon which HE sits as the SUPREME RULER and SOVEREIGN of all things. HE might even have given him a detailed summary of every event, as each has unfolded in the heavens and the earth according to HIS predestined and inalterable purpose. HE might have revealed many things which would leave any son of man in breathless wonder before HIM. Yet these are the words which HE spoke; *“I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee.”*

The LORD made it clearly evident that HIS glory is seen in the display of HIS GOODNESS. Not in HIS power, though it is without limit, not in HIS judgment which is immutable and before which all shall flee away, but rather in the manifestation of HIS own GOODNESS. It is this GOODNESS which the eye of sinful flesh cannot behold in its fullness nor have any appreciation for. Sometimes the potsherds of the earth would seek to define GOD’s GOODNESS in their own terms. As if GOD fits into their own notion of what is good and based upon what they judge to be good they say that HE is good, as if they have any platform upon which to make such an assessment. Yet man’s definition of goodness does not define GOD, rather GOD defines GOODNESS and clearly sets it forth before Moses face, though in veiled form as HE allowed MOSES to see only HIS backside.

The GOODNESS of GOD is demonstrated to men in the unfolding of HIS mercy. While HIS justice flows out from HIS HOLINESS, HIS mercy flows out from HIS GOODNESS. HE defines the sovereign nature of this mercy as HE went on to tell Moses *“I--- will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.”* The natural man of the flesh finds such a definition of HIS goodness to be no goodness at all. This is because the natural man of the flesh believes that he is somehow worthy of being the recipient of GOD’s GOODNESS and is owed HIS mercy simply because he believes he ought to have it. Yet there can be no such thing as “mercy” if it is somehow owed or if it can be earned in any fashion or bestowed on the basis of mans merit or action. Mercy must be Sovereignly dispensed in order to be true mercy. Mercy is kindness displayed for no apparent reason other than the benevolence of the one who bestows it. If this display of kindness could be merited it would not be mercy at all but rather the payment of a debt.

Therefore, it is most proper and necessary to consider the LORD’s demonstration of HIS mercy in the context of HIS sovereign prerogative to show mercy to whom HE wills and conversely as Paul clarifies; to “harden whom HE will.” The Psalmist says; *“Mercy shall be built up forever.”* This is a great comfort to those who have been caused by sovereign grace to trust in HIS mercy, leaning not to their own understanding nor expecting to receive something from HIS hand which is in anywise merited by some activity or obedience of their own. That ROCK upon which all of their hope is built is the unfailling nature of the mercies of GOD which cannot fail even though they are convinced that justice demands their destruction.

This is a “building” which the LORD pitched and not man.

This is a “building” whose FOUNDATION rests in the goodness of GOD.

This is a “building” whose walls are SALVATION and its GATES are praise.

This is a “building” which the saints in all ages have pressed towards.

This is a “building” which shall endure forever.

“And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.” *“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”* Do you see the LIGHT of that CITY?

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