

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #52

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

The age in which we live is characterized (in my opinion) by the greatest rise in the outward religion calling itself Christian, that has ever been seen in the world. This is described by the prophet Daniel, when he said "*many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.*" It seems that on every street corner there are churches of one type or another, and in every town and hamlet a Bible school or seminary, along with multitudes of Bible-book and trinket stores whose shelves are creaking with an overload of books which cover every topic found in the scriptures and quite a few which are not. These are exaggerations to be sure but the proliferation of supposed bible knowledge is set forth by an ever increasing multitude of teachers and would be experts of scriptural scholarship of one type or other.

Yet in the midst of all of these megachurches, worship centers, and family churches, the truth can hardly be found as the multitudes flock to be entertained, excited, and ultimately fleeced. The radio and TV airwaves are constantly abuzz with various prophets, bishops, biblical psychologists and self-help psychoanalysts, reverend doctors, pastor kings, and tellers of prophecies concerning the moon and stars, horses, and seals. Conservative politicians and patriots spout off about the so-called Biblical foundation of our nation and confuse the difference between that which is holy and that which is profane, and the people love to have it so.

The one thing which binds all of these various sects, denominations, and orders of one sort or another is an abiding and unshakeable belief in man's free will and GOD's necessary acquiescence thereto. Those who would question this are looked at as out of touch and those who would preach that GOD is an absolute GOD who causes all things to occur according to the good pleasure of HIS will, are seen as relics of the past, heretics, or worse.

The preaching of the truth as it is in CHRIST, declaring a SAVIOR who actually saves helpless sinners who cannot participate in their own salvation and a work of the SPIRIT which actually produces a people who love the truth and one another is an oddity. There is a contrast between those who preach the truth; the whole truth, and nothing but the truth and those that preach a message which may contain some truth. We see these two types of messengers compared and contrasted in the case of Cushie and Ahimaaz in 18th chapter of 2 Samuel

Ahimaaz was anxious to be the one who would bring the news of victory to King David. He was motivated in some measure by a desire to garner fame and notoriety in this task and to ingratiate himself to the king. Some of those who preach simply desire this same sort of preeminence. They love titles, such as Reverend, Elder, Pastor or Bishop and to be saluted in the marketplace.

Cushie on the other hand sought no notoriety and was perhaps even reluctant to step forward to the task at hand, yet was recognized by Joab as a faithful messenger, and once sent to the task did not shrink from it. Ahimaaz is like the man who chooses the "ministry" as a vocation and prepares himself in the schools of men, thinking that he can equip himself just as with any other career which men might pursue.

Cushie ran to the task at hand because he was selected by Joab and gave no thought to any gain which might come to him personally. While the true messengers of GOD may be taught in some measure by other men, yet the root of the matter instilled in their heart by the HOLY GHOST is the basis of their understanding. All who would preach the truth must receive it from this same source.

Ahimaaz ran more swiftly than Cushie, because he took the path of least resistance. A message which exalts the free will of man is much more appealing to the religious flesh of men than one which faithfully declares man's total depravity and his inability to perform anything which is good in the sight of a HOLY GOD.

Though Ahimaaz told David some truth; Cushie was the only one who brought a faithful message even though he feared David's reaction "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*"

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