

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

From the very beginning the LORD has been pleased to differentiate between those who are HIS people and those who are not. We know that HE will differentiate between those to whom the Kingdom is given and those to whom it is not. In order to illustrate this truth to those generations to come, the LORD chose a nation (Israel) in the earth to demonstrate HIS everlasting love to that Remnant which HE has made HIS own from every kindred, tribe, and tongue. This truth was hidden in a mystery which was not revealed until the LORD JESUS came into the world and was manifested as the REDEEMER of the true house of Israel. HE gave to the Jews many laws which were specifically for them, and which, to the carnal mind seem quite arbitrary in many cases. Yet the reason for these laws and restrictions was to demonstrate that HE had set them apart from the rest of the world. *“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth. Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.”* Thus, HE gave them many dietary laws which they were commanded to follow. They did not become “holy” by adhering to these laws but rather they were to adhere to these laws because the LORD had made them a “holy people” or a people who were set apart. It is very important that we have a clear understanding of this truth, for a lack of understanding of that causes men to go about to establish their own righteousness by the keeping of HIS law.

The LORD calls HIS sheep from the world, because they are HIS sheep and HE has sanctified them, making them holy in HIS sight. This is that “holiness” without which no man shall see the LORD. Peter speaks of it when he says, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”* The LORD gave Peter a vision wherein he saw a sheet come down from heaven with all manner of “abominable” (as the Jews would consider) animals in it, and was commanded to eat them. Peter being a “good Jew” recoiled at the idea and expressed his disdain for that which he considered “unclean”. The LORD told him that whatever HE makes clean is clean every whit and should not be called unclean. The LORD was not instructing Peter about what foods to eat, but rather the fact that those whom the LORD makes holy are forever and completely holy. The LORD has a people from every kindred and tribe whom HE has made holy in CHRIST. Those who believe do not become holy by their act of believing nor by any pursuit of obedience nor abstinence of any substance or activity on their part. Rather they are called and given faith to believe because they are made holy in CHRIST. That which GOD has cleansed should not be called unholy or unclean, for it is HE who sets HIS people apart.

For this reason, HE sent Peter to Cornelius’ house to declare the unsearchable riches of CHRIST to him whose heart the LORD had prepared to receive it. The LORD demonstrated HIS acceptance of Cornelius and those in his house by giving them ears to hear the gospel which Peter proclaimed, pouring out HIS SPIRIT upon them. They demonstrated the efficacy of HIS work in them by believing the word which Peter preached, being baptized and having a desire to hear more of CHRIST. *“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”* The man who walks in “holiness” is not observed by what he eats. Rather that man is given a desire to be found in obedience to HIM who has called him out of darkness and into the LIGHT. He will hear the exhortations of the scriptures and seek to be found walking in a fashion which brings no reproach upon the NAME of CHRIST. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* Though he finds that in his flesh dwells no good thing, yet he is given the EARNEST of the SPIRIT, crying ABBA FATHER as the SPIRIT wrestles against that flesh bringing him into conformity with CHRIST. Are you set apart in CHRIST by HIS SPIRIT?

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