

singing : “Thy mercy my GOD” #11

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

Paul’s first epistle to the Corinthians primarily addresses the carnal tendency of men (even true believers) to divide themselves up into sects and divisions. *“For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, ----- that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”*

Such practices are not prescribed nor recommended in the scriptures and the principle of strife and division among those who are bought with the precious blood of CHRIST, is not taught by the SPIRIT of GOD. Yet due to the weakness and depravity of the sinful flesh of man such “heresies” (i.e.; sectarianism) rears its head among the saints of GOD. Paul warned the Ephesian elders of this very tendency and even prophesied that such things would occur among their own number. .

Paul even speaks of such divisions as “necessary” in order to contrast that sectarianism with the GODLY principles of the Kingdom of CHRIST which set forth the concepts of forbearance with one another and the esteeming of one another above ourselves

Throughout this first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul continues to build upon this very theme. Thus the first chapter of it ends with these words, *“That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”* It is impossible that a man should have disregard to the brethren when HIS sole source of glorying is in the LORD, for then and only then does he know that he is nothing and that his knowledge is quite limited.

In the third chapter he continues to take away any room for glorying in men. Therefore let no man think more highly of himself and his calling than he ought to think. It is often true that some who would cause divisions among the saints do so as an excuse to promote their own “liberty” rather than acknowledging that “expediency” is much more important than “liberty” when it comes to seeking to build up the brethren in the most holy faith.

Thus, Paul set the example of denying himself many things that were his liberty to have or partake of, for the greater good of those whom he loved. He mentioned that while he had liberty to lead about a wife or sister at the expense of those to whom he ministered, yet in order to remove any hindrances to his ministry he made no such charge. He also pointed out that all things (meats and drinks, whether offered to idols or not) were lawful unto him and all believers, yet he would refrain from partaking of them at all if it caused his weaker brother to stumble in confusion.

In Chapter 10, Paul once again brings the focus of his message to the importance of unity among the saints of GOD. If we are united around a crucified CHRIST, what is the grounds of any sectarianism? JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified does unite the awakened sons of GOD; woe be unto him who would seek to overturn that unity. CHRIST is our SALVATION, HE is our RIGHTEOUSNESS, HE is our SANCTIFICATION. What GOD has joined together let not man put asunder. If any man would preach “another Jesus” than that ONE which PAUL preached, then he would seek to turn men aside from following HIM. Thus HE declared that he “determined” (i.e.; charted a sole and specific course) to know only one thing when he was among them, which is the very essence of the gospel, *“JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified.”*

Then in chapter 12 he speaks of the various gifts which the LORD is pleased to give to HIS saints. It is not a bad thing for a man to desire a gift in order to benefit the church. While it is good to desire gifts to profit the body, Paul describes an even *“more excellent way”*. which exceeds even the greatest gift of oratory or edifying word which could be spoken by men. This true brotherly love is the very denial and destruction of all that the flesh could ever produce This “love” has only ever been truly demonstrated by ONE man born of a woman, the MAN CHRIST JESUS. *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

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