

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

To say that the life of the children of GOD is beset by struggles would be an understatement. They are first born into the world under the bondage of sin which is most appealing to their flesh. Apart from having to endure the natural heartaches associated with this condition, they are most content to dwell in this state and have no knowledge of or desire to walk in any other. While in this state they cannot be distinguished from the children of wrath. They love sin and are happy to travel the road to destruction oblivious of the danger that is on every side and surely awaits those who follow that path to the end. In GOD's own time HE is pleased to awaken them to the emptiness of such a path and to reveal to them the wickedness of their own heart making their sin and rebellion against GOD odious in their sight. They are born again by the power of the SPIRIT of GOD. In HIS time HE causes them to hear the gospel of CHRIST's redemption for the first time and to give them faith to believe it. By that gift of faith they are manifested as the new creatures which HE has made them and thus begins a struggle that heretofore they had known nothing about.

This new creature is now locked in a life and death struggle inside this same body which until this time, the flesh had ruled without rival. *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* As the SPIRIT of GOD teaches HIS children they come to see more clearly the nature of the bondage which they were under before they were made new creatures and are brought into the awareness that *"the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* They are made to understand that *"we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh."* The flesh dictated every move they made when they were without CHRIST, but now its power is no longer absolute, for they have been set free from its dominion by the power of HIM who dwells in them.

Because they had dwelt so long and completely under the bondage of the flesh, they struggle against the flesh which constantly tries to reassert its former place of dominion. One of the tactics that the flesh employs to regain this place of authority is to seek to deceive the sons of GOD as to the true nature of their liberty. **Two devices have been designed unto this end.**

Fulfilling the lusts of the flesh as if this was freedom. It never ceases to amaze me that some are intent on defining their "liberty" in terms of the things they are "allowed" to do in the flesh. I have seen many grow angry at any who would raise a question as to whether it is appropriate for Christians to engage in behavior which is both destructive to the mind and body, (which is the temple of the HOLY GHOST), and the setting of a bad example for others, not to mention how such things appear in the eyes of the world. I once knew a gentleman who vehemently defended his "right" to smoke a pipe as being a matter of Christian liberty. Now I am quite certain that there is no law against pipe smoking in the scripture nor would I ever tell a man such conduct is unlawful, but I fail to see how such a thing could be described as liberty since one could only be in bondage, by its habitual use. Our liberty as the sons of GOD is to be set free from the things which once had us bound not to engage in them as if they were some sign of spiritual maturity or freedom. Others defend their "right" to imbibe copious amounts of alcohol, food, all sorts of entertainment and amusement, and even coarse and unedifying language on the same grounds. The man who thinks these things are "freedom" or expressions of liberty does not have a clear understanding of that which had us bound. Paul said, *"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."* GOD's children cannot be brought into condemnation by any activity of the mind or flesh but we are not called to exercise our flesh, rather to recognize that our freedom is from the lusts of the flesh and mind. Now having said that, neither are we called to be policemen over the activities of other brethren.

Disregarding the meeting of GOD's children on a regular basis. Many of those who call themselves Christians regard the assembly of the saints as something which is optional for a true believer. GOD's children most certainly are not bound by days, seasons, and times. However, GOD has placed within HIS true sons a love for the brethren and a need to be strengthened by one another in a functioning body known as a local church. Our freedom as the sons of GOD consists in being able to exercise love and esteem for our brethren in CHRIST without false pretenses but with a pure heart fervently. *"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)***