

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

The LORD raised Paul up to be an Apostle and equipped him with the necessary gifts he needed to perform the very task which the LORD ordained him for. The LORD always prepares those messengers whom HE sends as well as preparing those whom HE gives ears to hear the message which HE is pleased to send. Thus we are given the letters of Paul to the various churches and individuals which form a large portion of the New Testament scriptures.

These letters are not just general thoughts which are put out in some random fashion for whoever may come along and read them but are specific words which are sent for particular persons. Now it is true that Paul had a particular people in mind when he wrote them, yet the LORD had a much greater audience in mind when HE sent them. Thus while Paul wrote to specific churches and individuals, the LORD designed the whole body of Paul's work for the benefit of all of those whom HE would be pleased to give faith in all ages.

While the eons of time continue to progress, and many situations arise which are not specifically addressed in these letters, yet the truth which changes not is designed to meet the exact needs of all of GOD's children in all ages. Many, supposed teachers, have come along over time and tried to tell us, that the sons of GOD need new revelations and explanations of truth which are relevant to these more modern and enlightened times. Yet the fact is that the very same basic truth which the LORD gave to the apostle Paul, is the exact message which is to be declared in all ages and never ceases to be relevant to those who are given ears to hear.

Paul was a very learned man, and had a very analytical mind and was skilled in setting forth his premise and his conclusion. Yet the power of Paul's declaration was not in his skill nor in his learning, but rather in the power of the HOLY GHOST who is able to apply the truth which he proclaimed unto those whom the LORD is pleased to cause to hear and believe.

Having said that, let us be absolutely clear about this, that what Paul declared were the unequivocal facts concerning the life, death, and resurrection of JESUS CHRIST. He never strayed from this message, and all of his exhortations and admonitions, to the sons of GOD, stem from his unwavering confidence in that TRUTH and his belief that GOD's people cannot be encouraged by any other message nor can their lives be enhanced by the requirements of law and duty, however presented.

Paul told the Corinthians, that if those things which he preached and they believed were not so, then their faith would indeed be in vain. His point is that there must be a basis upon which a man's faith rests and this is the gospel he preached and they believed. He goes on to build his case for the certainty of the resurrection of CHRIST as being the very basis upon which the whole gospel as the Corinthians had come to believe it rested upon, but some had raised questions about. "*But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."* So we must ask ourselves this question. Have we believed in vain? True faith is not measured on the basis of how sincere a person may be in what they believe. It is not measured by how long they have believed it, nor does it matter how many people may believe it. That faith which is "in vain" is faith which does not rest solidly upon an incontrovertible foundation.

Many have "believed in vain" because their confidence is in their profession of faith, rather than the finished work of CHRIST. An attempt to save men which relies on their free will is no salvation at all. The preaching of a true FOUNDATION declares the completed salvation of a particular people by the finished work of CHRIST. Their salvation depends upon HIM and not their faith.

Men, in general will be satisfied to be told that they can partake of general redemptive work by an action of their own free will, and they will believe in vain in an attempted work of atonement which in reality saves none. Have you believed in vain? "

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