

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

Paul made it very plain that the only circumcision which was acceptable in the sight of GOD was a circumcision of the heart and not the flesh. *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”* Any sort of reliance which a man has in his own self or ability is an affront to the grace of GOD and a path of sure destruction for those who traverse it. The basis upon which the sons of GOD expect to stand before the face of Almighty GOD is completely devoid of any human endeavor and that faith which they confess and stand in rests wholly upon the finished work of CHRIST as their SUBSTITUTE, ATONEMENT, and present RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The preaching of the cross is offensive to all men who view themselves as able to perform some deed or act of obedience which will cause them to gain some sort of favor with GOD. Circumcision was that act for many Jews, even after they had professed faith in CHRIST. Being circumcised was to them the ultimate test of whether or not one was “obedient” to GOD and therefore was a sign of their acceptance with HIM. In doing so they disregarded the all sufficiency of the blood of CHRIST.

They were not opposed to the preaching of the fact that CHRIST died on the cross or was raised from the dead. Rather, their despising of the preaching of the cross lay in their denial that CHRIST actually “obtained” eternal redemption for HIS elect, by HIS death, leaving nothing which they could do to gain acceptance with GOD. While these Jews held onto “circumcision” as a necessity, the same scenario is played out among the Gentiles in the present day as there are numerous points of “obedience” which various sects and orders of those who call themselves “Christians” hold onto as being necessary “acts” on the part of man which make a man “acceptable” in the sight of GOD. It may be water baptism to some, a profession of faith to others, speaking in tongues, or a general outward keeping of the ten commandments (most especially the Sabbath day,) the adoption of a particular doctrinal order, etc. Whatever a man considers as a “necessity” to his salvation is that upon which he will trust and find a reliance in even if he labels such as mere “evidences” or “results.”

The majority of those in our communities, here in the south, would embrace the notion that JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth hung upon a cruel instrument of torture and execution commonly referred to as a “cross”. There is in reality quite a bit of mention made concerning those facts. on the radio and TV as well as in newspapers and other publications. The publishing and proclaiming of these facts is an “offense” to relatively few. Yet the preaching of the “cross” to which Paul refers is very offensive to most of the religious societies which teach that the action of faith on the part of man is just as important to their salvation as the work which CHRIST performed on Calvary’s tree. In fact it is quite common for salvation to be described by them, as having two parts. One being GOD’s part (where Jesus died on the cross for everyone, hoping that some would receive him) and the other being man’s part. (where he must acknowledge and believe what Christ did, by water baptism or simple confession of faith, etc and thereby make salvation effectual)

That preaching of the cross only has ONE PART, it is the declaration that JESUS CHRIST did offer up HIMSELF as an ATONEMENT for the sins of HIS people. It is the declaration that HE shed HIS precious blood to purchase their eternal redemption. It is the statement that in no uncertain terms HE has obtained eternal redemption for everyone for whom HE shed HIS blood. Nothing needs to be added, nor can it be. HE is the SALVATION of HIS people whom HE has loved with an everlasting love. The preaching of the cross is a declaration that JESUS CHRIST, alone is the SAVIOR of HIS people, There are really only three scenarios which can be presented to the reason of men concerning the work of CHRIST on the cross. 1. By HIS death HE paid for the sins of all men and therefore all men are saved. (This is called universalism) 2. By HIS death HE made salvation a possibility for all men but HE actually procured the salvation of none, leaving their salvation up to their own free will. (This is called modern evangelicalism) 3. By HIS death HE actually paid the sin debt of the people which HE chose, before the foundation of the world by becoming their SUBSTITUTE and dying in their room and stead, being made sin for them. (This is called the offence of the cross.) While it is offensive to those who go about to establish their own righteousness it is the sweet sound of deliverance to those who know themselves to be lost and undone sinners. *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

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