

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #19

singing : ""JESUS, source of our salvation;," #258

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

Paul reminded the Philippian believers that they were constantly in his prayers. Especially as he recalled their "*fellowship in the gospel*", which began when they were given eyes to see the glory of CHRIST's redemption and continued on till the present time. This was a source of great joy to him as he contemplated the faithful work of CHRIST in those whom HE is pleased to call.

This "*fellowship*" (of which he speaks) is that which manifests the bonds of Christian love which are exhibited by those in whom the LORD has begun a good work and presently performs the same in them. To be without this "brotherly love" is to manifest the absence of the work of GOD regardless of what one may claim to believe or be. As John says "*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*" "*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*"

The Greek word for "*fellowship*" is "*koinonia*" and means "participation or partnership in a common cause" When one has this kind of "fellowship" with another they must share a common desire (which is to see CHRIST exalted), a common bond (which is love for CHRIST and one another) and a common commitment (which is to follow the way of CHRIST). If these things be absent then there can be no such thing as true "*fellowship*" at all.

Those whose are of this world have fellowship with the "*unfruitful works of darkness*". The sons of GOD, however, are admonished to "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. For if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*" Rather "*our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*"

Paul speaks of "*fellowship in the gospel*", which describes the basis for the bond which unites the sons of GOD in this world. This "gospel" of which he speaks is not a message which simply speaks of some sort of general good-will towards men but rather one which centers on the work of redemption which CHRIST came to perform in the behalf of that elect people which were chosen in HIM before the foundation of the world.

Paul speaks of this when he told the Corinthians, "*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*" (1Cor 2:2) This is the basis for the true fellowship which he speaks of to the Philippians. The fellowship of the saints is not in various forms of fleshly recreations but rather in the spiritual bonds formed by a desire to see CHRIST magnified. Some have crept in among the saints over the years and have injured this pure fellowship by the promotion of a free will doctrine which ultimately denies the Sovereign grace of GOD.

The "*fellowship*" of the saints must be in CHRIST alone, anything or any "one" else is a detriment to true "*fellowship in the gospel*". When CHRIST alone is preached, none care who the mouthpiece might be, but together rejoice in HIM. Unfortunately it is quite common to find many "preachers" in the present time who are as Diotrephes and love to have the preeminence, they seek out a following and delight in the praise of their "hearers" and the salary they are paid. That man who promotes himself cannot preach CHRIST alone and the man who preaches CHRIST alone cannot promote himself, nor is any man who is called to preach concerned with how much money he might receive from it.

The true "*fellowship in the gospel*" has regard first to CHRIST alone. The primary bond of this fellowship is found in the worship of JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified. This fellowship is not around the ability of men to do anything but it rather rejoices that CHRIST has provided a full and free salvation for all HE is pleased to call and cause to believe. Then this fellowship has regard to those who are our brethren, (that is the church) "*Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*" Therefore let us "*be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*"

Singing ("*Keep us from a proud appearance*") #258 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**