

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

The Bible is a book of contrasts. The righteousness of CHRIST is contrary to the self-righteousness of men. The way of the flesh is at odds with that of the SPIRIT. Religious worship is contrasted with true worship; which is in SPIRIT and TRUTH. Self-love is not compatible with that love which esteems the other better than themselves. Yet nowhere is a greater contrast seen than in the two births which the LORD told Nicodemus about. *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* A failure to see this contrast between a birth of water (i.e.; that which is natural or of the earth) and that which is of the SPIRIT (i.e.; that which is from heaven) is to fail to understand the extent and nature of the work of GOD in those who are ordained unto eternal life and it is to confuse that which is of the earth with that which is heavenly and ultimately to miss the Kingdom of GOD. That which is born of the flesh is flesh. It will never be anything else but that corruptible flesh in which a man is born and will one day die. This flesh is unchanged by the new birth and will continue to strive and war against the SPIRIT until the grave swallows it up.

We read in the scripture that the new born sons of GOD are made *“new creatures”*. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (or creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* To paraphrase this scripture we might say that those who are “in CHRIST” are not the same “creation” that they were by natural birth alone. They are inexorably changed. Yet that which is flesh is still flesh. This new creation has to do; not with the muscles and sinews of the body, but rather with the mind and/or the spirit of man. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of GOD.

Whereas those who are, now, born again once walked according to the *“spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience”*, they are now *“renewed in the spirit of their mind”*. Their existence without this work of the SPIRIT of GOD in them is called the *“old man”*, or that which they were, the creature that they are now is called the *“new man”* which *“after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”* These two creations are not compatible to say the least and it is the source of each one’s power which causes the constant conflict in the believer’s life, which Paul describes. *“For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.”* Paul explains the nature and reason for this conflict to the Galatians, *“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.”* This corruptible flesh in which we are born and do presently abide in, wars against the SPIRIT of our mind which is made conformable to the image of CHRIST. The man who is without this conflict is devoid of the SPIRIT of CHRIST.

Paul confessed, *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”* Self righteous men think themselves to be righteous and rejoice in the “progress” that they make in achieving holiness. Some call this idea “progressive sanctification”. The only thing that is “progressive” about those who have been redeemed by the blood of the LAMB is that they are “progressing” towards the tomb and the glorious deliverance from it which they hope to enjoy in the day of the resurrection. *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

We are not ignorant of Satan’s devices nor of the deceitfulness of the flesh. He delights to stir up the flesh and constantly seeks an occasion therein to bring reproach to the children of GOD and wound their conscience. The flesh itself would seek opportunity to indulge itself without regard to the consequences. Our flesh is not a friend to the workings of our mind which is renewed daily in CHRIST, and would seek by subterfuge, deception, and outright force to overtake us and bring us to shame and ruin. The sons of GOD dwell in perfect liberty, nothing can bring them into condemnation or cause them to be rejected by the FATHER. This is a glorious position and standing which is a great and lasting comfort to the children of GOD, yet their flesh would seek to use this liberty as an occasion to bring reproach upon them by an unwise use of it. Therefore Paul exhorts us, *“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.”*

The scriptures are replete with many exhortations and instructions to the children of GOD to confront that flesh which constantly wars against the *“law of their mind”*. This is why Paul says *“make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”* Christian liberty is not a license to indulge the flesh rather it is given that we might serve one another. Are you free in CHRIST?

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