

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #28

singing : "Go ye that rest upon the law",." #47

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

A very common activity of most humans is to look in a mirror each day in order to examine their appearance. When we are young and vibrant it is easy to be pleased with what we see, but the older that we get the more shocking does that image appear.

Paul writes here to the Corinthians about the "veil" which was upon Moses face and likens that "veil" to the lack of vision which the Israelites had of the "glory" of the Law given on Mount Sinai. The glory and power of that Law was unto condemnation, as is illustrated by the fact that no man could approach unto that mountain without being killed.

Man naturally looks at the law as a code of ethics or moral guide which he assumes he can, and should abide by. The religious man even glories in it and often judges his righteousness relative to others and to that which is accepted by GOD, by his own supposed adherence to it. He believes that he can earn the favor of GOD by his dedication to it and considers that the blessings of GOD are dispensed according to this obedience, even when that obedience is imperfect.

This is the same "veil" of darkness which leads to utter destruction and is manifested most clearly in Paul's recognition of the error of the Jews "*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"

Thus Paul instructs the Corinthians using the illustration of looking in a glass (i.e.; mirror). He instructs them that the man who is brought from darkness to light by the new birth, does behold with "open face" the true "glory of the LORD," and to see that CHRIST alone is that glory. The majesty and power of the gospel, which "*brings life and immortality to light*", does show those who are bowed down with their own sin and inability to keep the law that the sum of all RIGHTEOUSNESS is found in JESUS CHRIST alone.

Thus as he looks into this mirror and rather than seeing himself as a condemned sinner he begins to see that "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus*" The more, that he stares at CHRIST the more that he beholds the glory of the LORD's righteousness and the less that he considers himself to be righteous by his own deeds. The flesh will always gravitate towards condemnation because it is still operating under that "veil" which cannot behold the true glory of GOD, but assumes that this glory must be in his own keeping of the law in some measure.

This darkened and corruptible flesh will seek to make the child of GOD, that he is wrong not to examine himself by the law and to compare himself to its demands. The man who is born again is well aware that he cannot keep the law. He does not need a continual stirring up of the image of his corruption by the constant harassment of duty/works.

There is a purpose in self-examination and exhortation but its purpose is not to put the veil of the law back over his face. The man who is born from above despairs of being stirred up to good works by the condemning power of the law and the constant exhortations unto an obedience to it.

Rather, the man who has eternal life is only made strong as he beholds the IMAGE of HIM who is incorruptible and in whom resides all of the glory of GOD's RIGHTEOUSNESS. Thus his "self examination" (as he looks into the mirror) causes him to see that the righteousness of CHRIST alone is his hope. He is "changed" by this constant gaze as he is given eyes to see that CHRIST has borne his sin and carried it away, and imputed to him HIS own perfect righteousness.

The longer he stares at this IMAGE of the glory of GOD the more of that glory he sees and the more precious the SAVIOR and SOURCE of his righteousness becomes

He sees with "open face" the absolute, imputed righteousness of CHRIST as his own.

He sees with "open face" the complete sinlessness of CHRIST.

He sees with "open face" the fullness of the GODHEAD bodily in JESUS CHRIST

He sees with "open face" the risen CHRIST. "*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*"

"But I'll retire beneath the cross," #47 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net ,**