

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

The LORD illustrated the importance of a proper foundation in HIS parable of the two men who built houses. The wise man built his house upon the rock and the foolish man built his upon the sand. When the storms came, only that one which was built upon the rock stood while the other was swept away and destroyed. Thus HE illustrated the contrast between the basis of the Kingdom of heaven and that of this world. Those who trust in the arm of the flesh will find that it has no power to deliver them, yet those who have fled for refuge to CHRIST shall find rest to their souls because their confidence is in HIM who alone has the power to deliver them. Paul instructs the Corinthians on the necessity of building on the ONE FOUNDATION upon which all sound doctrine must stand. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

There are several basic truths which are the underpinnings of the gospel which when ignored, misapplied, or misrepresented leave those who would claim to be the followers of CHRIST with no actual basis of that "faith" which they profess. Everyone who calls himself a Christian claims to believe in CHRIST, but sadly the vast majority of them have no idea exactly what JESUS CHRIST accomplished in HIS life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Many talk of "faith" but they are convinced that it is "their" faith, which is a product of their free-will which justifies them before GOD. There is much rhetoric about the "love of GOD" for all of mankind, which actually cheapens the very concept of the love of GOD which is described in the scripture as particular and eternal.

One of these foundational truths (without which there is no gospel) which one seldom hears preached upon in this day of "feel good, act good, and be blessed" pabulum masquerading as gospel preaching, is the doctrine of "imputation". Imputation is basically an accounting term which means to "apply to an account". Any accountant who is worth his salt knows that you cannot "impute" a "transaction" to an account without a proper basis and you cannot create that basis out of thin air. The IRS frowns upon this practice, but many modern day "preachers" make it their constant practice as they make the salvation of men to rest upon their free will choice.

There is a basis upon which the LORD "imputes" or "accounts" men as sinners. That basis is HIS law. When men break the "law" they are "counted" as sinners upon this "basis" and nothing can change that nor cause that basis to be altered or fail. All men die because all men are accounted as sinners. That is the basis of their condemnation. Thus it is impossible for a man to cease to be a sinner by anything which he might undertake or what obedience he might carry out. The basis of his condemnation is inalterably fixed and cannot be modified by anything which he may perform..

In like fashion if a man is to be accounted as righteous there must be a "basis" upon which that "imputation" takes place. In order for a man to be "accounted" as "righteous" he must be seen as without any sin, perfectly obedient to the law both presently and in the past as well as the future. No sinful man could possibly find himself in this condition by his own effort, as is demonstrated by the fact that all are sinners, have sinned, and will continue to be and do the same.

The scriptures tell us that a man can be justified by faith, but this "faith" by which a man is "justified" is not the act which he performs, but rather this "faith" by which he is "justified" is that which is "of" ONE whom the law recognizes as completely without sin. So the "FAITH" which justifies is not the activity of believing, but rather the OBJECT upon which a man is caused to believe and ultimately rest in, ceasing from his own labor.

CHRIST is the JUSTIFIER. HE is pleased to apply HIS righteousness to the account of those whom HE has loved from the beginning. This "imputation" has nothing at all to do with their activity, but rather HIS own. CHRIST has taken the sin of HIS elect upon HIMSELF, as the scripture says, *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* Upon this basis alone do we stand and rejoice in the HOPE of the GLORY of the BLESSED GOD. Upon what basis does your righteousness rest?

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