

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

The Greek word which is translated as “*reckon*” in the scriptures is the root word of our English word, “logic. It is an accounting term which literally means to “count, compute, or calculate.” And is in some ways akin to the term, “reconcile” as that term is often used in accounting as “reconciling accounts”, which simply means to be sure that they add up. This is what Paul means when he speaks of “reckoning”. True faith is completely “logical” because it has as its basis the LOGOS (true logic) or WORD of GOD. Yet it is completely illogical to the thinking of the natural man, who considers such things as foolish. *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

We are not surprised when men count it a waste of time for them to heed the word of GOD, they simply “reckon” it to be unreliable and no amount of teaching or reasoning can change their mind. Yet to those who have been given the gift of “precious faith”, the WORD of GOD, is that which is their delight and complete ground of HOPE. They “reckon” it to be more valuable than rubies, diamonds, and gold.

The “faith” which the religious world generally speaks of is a sort of fantasy or make believe. We often hear the hucksters of TV and radio admonishing folks to believe. They tell the gullible that there are many blessings in store for those who can muster up the power to “believe”, as though they possess some ability to have faith. They claim that they are able to alter the course of history, heal men of diseases, and grant blessings of one sort or another. Of course they desire their hearers to reach in their pocket and send in a “love gift” so that they won’t lose their blessing or healing. I “reckon” such to be a deception and no biblical “faith” at all. The gifts and calling of GOD are without repentance, that which GOD grants can neither be lost nor forfeited.

The concept of true faith has been almost completely sidetracked today by the rise of the concept of “the power of positive thinking”. This dogma which has infiltrated and permeated our society has become the fertile ground of deceivers who have led the masses down the primrose path of “name and claim it” and other related nonsense. I “reckon” that whatever a man believes in which is not spelled CHRIST JESUS the LORD, is a sideshow.

Biblical faith is that which is purely “objective”. By that I mean that it always rests on a BASIS and is not the operation of ones desires, devotion, or ability, but rather is the gift of GOD which causes a man to rest in JESUS CHRIST. HE is the FOUNDATION and BASIS for true faith. HE is our FAITH, we neither have or need any other. Prayer does not change things, GOD changes men, often through the means of prayer as the SPIRIT of GOD works in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure.

Paul says, *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Some tell us that Paul is mistaken. That we are somehow not really dead to sin, but that we are to simply act as though we are dead to sin, by mortifying the deeds of the flesh. Such a thought process is not in keeping with what Paul means by “reckon”. You cannot “reckon” something to be true that has no basis in fact. Paul said, *“For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”* If a man is a new creature in CHRIST then HE is dead to sin and should “reckon” it so, as one calculates the basis upon which he stands.

So how are the sons of GOD “*dead to sin*”. When the sons of GOD were unregenerate, they walked according to the course of this world. They were “*free from righteousness*” and willing subjects unto bondage. Yet CHRIST has now set them free and they are no longer in this bondage. The purpose of the preaching of the gospel is “*to preach good tidings unto the meek; ----- to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound*”. Reckon therefore yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin and alive unto CHRIST, if so be that the SPIRIT of GOD dwells in you. This is not make believe but the true work of GOD in the behalf of HIS own. We are reckoned by GOD as righteous because of CHRIST who is our FAITH. We are presently reckoning ourselves to be the sons of GOD, (if we be in the faith), those who are delivered from sin, and who owe no allegiance to this flesh which does so easily beset us because of its love for sin. But we are more than conquerors through HIM that loved us and gave HIMSELF for us. Do you reckon CHRIST alone to be you hope of eternal life?

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