

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

The error in modern “evangelism” is not in the “zeal” and “fervor” of those who are engaged in it but the sad fact that it is primarily a “zeal without knowledge”, in much the same fashion as the manner which Paul described the ignorance of the Jews, *“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of (or after) God, but not according to knowledge. 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.”* It is accepted, without question or examination, by the vast majority of those who style themselves as “evangelicals” that man is a creature with a free will who can as easily choose eternal life as he can choose sin. Therefore they believe he can use that free will to avail himself of a “salvation” which is “offered” to him by a doting god who would not hurt a flea and hopes with all of his heart that they will take him up on the offer. In this formula it is also accepted without question or examination that when the scripture says “GOD is love” that this means HE loves all men the same. In the same fashion they conclude on this basis that CHRIST therefore died to pay for the sins of all men and making “salvation” available for all men, and has now left it up to them to cast the deciding vote as to whether or not they will be saved.

The magnitude of this error cannot be overstated. This is not simply a procedural mistake, or a slight blurring of the truth, or difference of opinion. Rather, this is an egregious error which confuses, distorts, and sets forth a “gospel” which is no gospel at all. If any portion of a man’s salvation depends on an act of his “free will” then he is done for; since the scripture accurately says, *“There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.* It is sheer folly to think that a declaration of the gospel can be heard by those who are dead in trespasses and sins. The truth of GOD can only be heard by those who have been given ears to hear it, *“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.”* This is why the LORD JESUS told Nicodemus, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

The gospel is not a proposition which is offered to men in hopes that some will be persuaded to believe it. Rather it is the declaration of that work of redemption which JESUS CHRIST has done in the behalf of his elect children who are themselves by nature the children of wrath even as others and worthy of destruction. Yet because of the great love wherewith HE has loved them, HE has undertaken their complete salvation and has obtained eternal redemption for them. This salvation is totally dependent on the work which HE has performed for them. In HIS own time HE gives them eyes to see and ears to hear that sweet and blessed sound of a complete salvation in HIM, even as Paul declares, *“Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

Yet the first work of the SPIRIT in the sons of GOD, is not to cause them to hear but rather to see themselves as they really are. No man will call out for mercy nor will the gospel appear as the sweet savor that it actually is, until he first knows himself in desperate need of such. The LORD has sent HIS SPIRIT to convince men of their sin, HIS righteousness and the certainty of judgment. The natural man is exactly like the Pharisee who went down to the temple to pray and there considered his own merits and faith. He is totally unable to cry out for mercy as the publican who, by the grace of GOD, had been shown exactly what he was and what he deserved. Even as Job who declared *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”* This is the music of heaven, *“I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”* This is the result of the destruction of the hope of the natural man. This is that which David experienced which led him to the complete understanding of his own estate which he expressed in the fifty first Psalm. *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”*

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” Do you rejoice in the cross of CHRIST?

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