

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

The testimony of CHRIST can be seen from the first pages of Genesis, the glorious poetry of the Psalms, and the writings of the prophets, yet these Jews who considered themselves to be adept at “reasoning” the scriptures, could not see the identity of HIM whom they claimed to desire the coming of. Such is the state of man by nature; completely unwilling and unable to approach unto HIM who alone has the remedy for his condition. Apart from HIS amazing and wonderful sovereign grace which plucks men as brands from the burning, it can be said to all men even as the LORD testified to these Pharisees, *“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”* Would not a “reasonable” man run to HIM? *“Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”*

The LORD raised up the Apostle Paul to be a witness to the Gentiles. We see him faithfully discharging the call that was given to him *“as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come”* before Felix, the governor of Judea. Felix demonstrated the power of Paul’s “reason” and the hardness of his heart, which is endemic to the natural man, as he could not embrace the TRUTH, even though he trembled before it. Festus, blinded by the vanity of his “reason”, accused Paul of being crazy, as he rejected true “reason” and willingly remained in his ignorance. Agrippa reacted in the same way as Felix, expressing some consideration of the things which Paul declared but was unable to cast off his own unbelief, even though “reason” suggested a different reaction.

It is quite “reasonable” that men should consider *“righteousness”*. All men desire for other men to be morally righteous. Even the most crooked of men, expects and desires to be treated fairly in business dealings and will react in anger should he be the victim of the same sort of scam which he might gladly perpetrate upon others who are unsuspecting. Thus, all men are without excuse before the law since they are convinced of it in their heart even if not in their mind. Yet the “righteousness”, which those who would faithfully declare the gospel of the glory of the blessed GOD, are concerned with, is not about human morality. Rather, there is but one RIGHTEOUSNESS which occupies their message. It is that perfect RIGHTEOUSNESS of CHRIST, both as HE walked among men, demonstrating purity in the inward parts; and that which HE alone possesses as that perfect SUBSTITUTE who has become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of HIS people by imputation. HE is, both, the FULFILLER of the law and the PERFORMER of the same for those whom HE loves.

Likewise, reasonable men consider *“temperance”* (i.e.; self-control) to be useful. Even the man who is a drunkard, understands the value of “temperance”, when someone he loves is injured by another who is driving while intoxicated. The scripture describes “temperance” as one of the fruits of the SPIRIT. The sons of GOD are exhorted to add “temperance” to their “knowledge”. The LORD demonstrated “temperance” constantly and taught HIS disciples to love those that hate them and to pray for those who would use them in a spiteful manner. Is this not the very essence of self-denial? So, it is the very lack of “temperance” which the LORD enables HIS children to see in themselves, that they might call upon HIM to work these things in them. James reminds us of the corrupt nature of our tongues, *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.”* Is it not reasonable that diligence be exercised with this unruly member?

Paul also reasoned of *“judgment to come.”* *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* All men believe in *“judgment to come”* in one fashion or another. Some call it “karma” or “what goes around comes around.” In fact, most hope for judgment, not for themselves, but for those who have wronged them. It just wouldn’t be “reasonable” to think that they wouldn’t “get what they deserve”. Yet the reality of judgment at the hands of a HOLY GOD, who will not clear the guilty or acquit the wicked, is roundly rejected, by the natural man who prefers to think that some good deeds are better than none. Only the SPIRIT of GOD can cause a man to confess that he is worthy of destruction and deserves nothing as he stands before the great KING and JUDGE of all the Earth. Reason tells us it is true. Do you expect to plead your case before this JUDGE or do you have a MEDIATOR, the MAN CHRIST JESUS?

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