

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

Saul of Tarsus was one of the least likely individuals that any of the disciples of CHRIST would have marked out as one of GOD’s elect children. He was a Jew of the Jews, steeped in the traditions of that religion, in which, he was raised and trained. He was a student of the Scriptures and a pupil of the premier teacher of the Jewish law and tradition, of his day. He was numbered among the Pharisees which was the strictest sect of the Jews, even excelling his peers in zeal for the law. He hated the gospel and those who preached it, so much, that he sought letters of reprisal from the Jewish high court in order to see them put to death. To say he was the enemy of the churches would be to put it mildly.

But the LORD would demonstrate that HIS purpose is beyond the comprehension of men and the wideness of HIS mercy would include such an one as this Saul of Tarsus, who would later confess that he was the chief of sinners. For the LORD had not only ordained Saul as an heir of SALVATION and ETERNAL LIFE, but to be a vessel in HIS hand to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

The scriptures make it clear that everyone of those which believe in HIM do so because they are ordained unto ETERNAL LIFE just as much so as was Saul of Tarsus. They did not receive ETERNAL LIFE because they believed but rather as the scripture says they believed because they were ordained to ETERNAL LIFE. This is an important distinction which cannot be disregarded lest one seek to overturn the truth of GOD and give men the glory which rightly belongs to HIM.

Who among the sons of men could stir himself up to call upon the LORD and believe in HIM apart from the sovereign work of GOD? The calling of each one out of darkness and into the light may not all be as dramatic, as that of Saul, yet the certainty of each one’s calling rests in the hands of the same ONE who arrested Saul on the road to Damascus so as to fulfill HIS purpose.

The LORD told Ananias of the fact that HE had already done a work of grace in Saul for HE told him, *“behold he prayeth”*. Nothing is more common among the true saints of GOD than a love for the place of prayer and the activity of it. Sadly in many congregations of those who call themselves the followers of CHRIST, more time is spent on every activity other than prayer. So what is “prayer”? “Prayer” is synonymous with “worship”. True prayer must begin and end with worship. The LORD JESUS began HIS model prayer by exalting the FATHER when HE says *“Hallowed be THY NAME”*. HE closes HIS prayer by magnifying the eternal nature of HIS Kingdom and the extent of HIS glory. *“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.”*

Worship (and true prayer) is not primarily concerned with great swelling words, but is often demonstrated by silence before HIM who is worthy of all praise. *“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.” “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.” “Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.” “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

While prayer is always to be “worship” and the giving of thanks and praise, it may also involve making requests or petitions. Sadly this comprises the sum total of what most think of when they hear the word “prayer”. Many look at prayer in a superstitious manner just as one would consider getting a genie to come out of a lamp when it is rubbed. We are exhorted to *“make our requests known unto GOD”*, but that is a secondary function of true prayer. Prayer is an exercise which the LORD uses to cause us to be reconciled to the will of GOD rather than as many view it, a way to get GOD to change HIS will to be aligned with ours. As the LORD prayed *“Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”* A man who is fervent in prayer delights to see the will of GOD accomplished in the Earth, even as it was ordained in Heaven. True prayer must be prompted by the SPIRIT of GOD and is not dependent on a man’s learning, faith, eloquence, or religious habits. Yet that activity which is most characteristic of those who have fled for refuge to CHRIST is that they will pray. If someone were to describe the activity which most characterized your life, would they say *“behold he prayeth”*? *“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)**