

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

The earliest days of the New Testament church saw a great ingathering of many who professed faith in JESUS CHRIST as the SON of the LIVING GOD, who was crucified, dead, buried and risen again as the SAVIOR of sinners. It is quite often true that many are swept into the external Kingdom of the LORD during various outpourings of the SPIRIT according to the LORD’s purpose. Just as surely as HE calls HIS sheep in this manner, there are generally many goats among them who are caught up in their midst for one reason or another. The LORD illustrated this fact in the parables of the tares and the wheat and the sower. It is often very difficult to discern the wheat from the tares, thus we are told to leave them alone until the time of the harvest, when HE comes to gather the good grain and to cast away that which is not HIS, to be burned.

We live in an age of “easy believeism” when it has been drummed into the heads of the majority of those who have some profession of faith in CHRIST, that they can believe and follow CHRIST according to the dictates of their free will and natural choice. Those who are given no understanding by the SPIRIT of GOD will ultimately reject the truth of GOD in favor of whatever religion is more suitable to them. They might not reject what they think is the Gospel, but they will count the truth to be a lie, and a lie to be the truth. They are those who have *“received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”* *“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”*

Paul told Timothy that *“The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;---And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”* Paul knew that this was the way of men and he forewarned Timothy that he should not be surprised when this occurred. It has happened in every age and the one in which we live is a stark testimony to the truth of Paul’s observation. Every man, who professes faith, will turn his back to the truth and depart from the way of the LORD, unless the LORD shall keep him from falling. The sow that is washed will always return to its wallowing in the mire apart from the LORD’s mercy to prevent it.

The LORD uses the examples of those who turn aside from the Gospel in order to stir, HIS own people, up with even greater desire not to be found among them. They are stirred by the admonitions to *“walk circumspectly”* and this which Paul spoke to Timothy, *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”* These are not warnings for some time in the distant future, but just as they were applicable to the day in which Timothy lived, much more are they so in the present.

Men do not embrace the tenets of Christianity with the thought in mind of departing from the truth which they profess to believe. Yet the fact that many do so, serves to remind the true sons of GOD that they do not stand in the power of their flesh. These departures are generally gradual, as error creeps in little by little. Many, who at one time seemed solid in faith, swerve ever so gently at first until they ultimately turn from that which they once claimed to believe. Those who would depart from the faith and those who lead them down this path are suited for one another and as the antithesis of the sheep of the LORD’s pasture, they do serve as a counterpoint to that which the LORD said of HIS own sheep. *“his own sheep,-- follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”*

In reading the letters of Paul to the various churches, it is obvious that even very early on there were some who were seeking to corrupt the one clear doctrine that Paul was faithful to declare: *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”* There is no appeal to the flesh in such a singular and unadorned message. Only those who are bought with this precious blood can find complete satisfaction in dwelling upon this topic. It is not surprising then to see men get bogged down in endeavors to keep the *“law”* and thereby in some measure to establish their own righteousness. Most of those who come teaching *“another gospel”* appeal to this innate bent of men and scratch the itch which men naturally have. Great followings are established in this manner and many are deceived thereby.

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