

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

One of the most common questions that was asked in the course of conversation, after Hurricane Irma hit this area, was "Is your power back on?" or "do you have power?" As a society we have become so completely dependent on electricity that we are nearly brought to a standstill when something disrupts that source of power. There are two Greek words which are primarily translated as "power" in the New Testament. The one which we would most closely associate with "electricity" or the force, strength, and ability which it represents would be "dunamis". This word is where we get our English word "dynamo" and also "dynamite". The Greek word which is used when the LORD said "*All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth,*" is not "dunamis", however, but rather "*exousia*". Whereas "*dunamis*" regards power from a standpoint of strength, "*exousia*" regards power as that of a supreme magistrate or that which arises from absolute authority.

Sadly, a majority of those who profess to be the followers of CHRIST are convinced that the success or failure of the gospel, depends upon the endeavors of men, either to believe it, or to preach it to the world. All manner of human exertion is encouraged, to bring "power" to this message and thereby to work alongside the LORD in order to bring about results which will not materialize apart from these efforts. Collecting money for these endeavors has become the single most important activity among many of those who claim to be CHRIST's followers.

Now we are certain that the LORD JESUS CHRIST does indeed have power (dunamis) to perform whatever HE purposes to bring to pass since HE is the fullness of the GODHEAD bodily. HE who made the worlds does not lack in this sort of "power". Yet when the LORD declared HIS "power" here in Matthew 28:18, HE is speaking of the fact that all "authority" has been manifested in HIM in HIS office as the REDEEMER KING of HIS chosen people.

The drawing of the sons of GOD to HIMSELF, is not due to the efforts or ability of those who are sent to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD in the earth. All such "preachers" are merely mouthpieces through which the LORD is pleased to magnify the glory of HIS grace to the ears of those whom the LORD is pleased to give understanding and receptive hearts. HIS word cannot return unto HIM void because all of this is done according to HIM who has all authority in heaven, earth, and hell. The LORD gave the Centurion (whose servant HE healed) an understanding of HIS supreme authority. This was quite in contrast to those Jews who despised HIS "authority" since HIS teaching was with "power", which astonished the multitudes and angered those whose hearts the LORD hardened. This is a demonstration of HIS power to hide things from the wise and prudent and reveal them unto babes. (see Matt.21:27) Who can bring a railing accusation or reply against HIM who has all "power" in heaven and earth.

The Jews, were intent on accusing HIM of violations of the Sabbath while the LORD would demonstrate that HE who made man could forgive his sins as easily as heal him from palsy. HIS "authority" is that which moves the hearts of GOD's people to fear HIM, for they realize that their destiny rests solely in HIS hands. The LORD said to them: "*Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power (i.e.; authority) to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*" Pilate assumed (like most men) that he possessed power since he felt sure that the strength and might of the Roman Empire, was absolute. Yet he was brought face to face with ONE who does indeed possess all authority and who told him, "*Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.*" Pilate found out that he didn't even have power to set CHRIST free, though he wanted to. For HE who had "power to lay HIS life down" caused the Roman empire to rise to prominence in order to set the stage for that redemptive work which HE had determined to perform in the behalf of HIS own elect bride before the foundation of the world.

Nothing can possibly occur in the heavens or the earth that could in anywise overturn or cancel this redemptive work of CHRIST. HE laid down HIS life, not in weakness but in power because HE is a MAN in authority, and has accomplished the salvation of HIS chosen people.

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