

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

There are many who equate morality with Christianity. "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" The sons of GOD owe no loyalty to any man made systems or standards, but rather their allegiance is strictly and solely unto HIM who has called them. Even when they demonstrate subjection to the rulers of this world, they do it not for the rulers sake but because they would be the servants of their KING, and HE commands them thus. "*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*"

Some have twisted these scriptures to define "patriotism" as a godly exercise, often even going so far as to describe such "patriotism" as a loyalty to a certain political persuasion or economic philosophy. A man can be the greatest of "patriots" and yet have no knowledge of, or interest in the kingdom of GOD. In like fashion a man may have no interest in politics, pledges, or national anthems (etc) and yet be desirous of giving glory to CHRIST and honor to the king as prescribed.

So it comes as no surprise when we hear some define "growing in grace" as a measurable change in conduct according to standards which either they have set or some religious organization purporting itself to be the representatives of CHRIST in the earth have established as proper behavior. It would be impossible to argue that the sons of GOD are not exhorted to "grow in grace" just as surely as it would be impossible for one of them to add one cubit to his stature by taking thought thereto. The exhortations of the scriptures are given to the sons of GOD to drive them to the feet of CHRIST, where they must needs find all that is necessary for them.

This sinful flesh in which we were born is both incorrigible and corrupt, and no changes shall ever occur therein. The flesh will continue its war against the SPIRIT in the sons of GOD until this mortal puts on immortality. Some teach that "growing in grace" is seen as the sons of GOD improve their lives, stop their bad habits, and generally become productive citizens. This is often called "sanctification" and is supposedly the demonstration of men becoming more and more conformed to the image of CHRIST in their daily walk. Now we would never oppose such changes nor say that such things might not occur according to the operation of the SPIRIT. But we would never call such "sanctification" nor characterize this as "growing in grace." Rather this is the evidence that HE works in the sons of GOD both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure.

Growing in grace is simply that, "growing in grace". As a man grows in grace, he is made ever more mindful of his own innate corruption. The more of CHRIST that he is enabled to see, the more repugnant and reprehensible he sees himself to be. As he grows in grace, he is evermore convinced of the LORD's justice in the condemnation of sinners. As a man grows in grace, he is struck with amazement, not that GOD would destroy some, but that HE has not destroyed us all. To "grow in grace" is to embrace the unconditional election of that people which the LORD has loved with an everlasting love. To "grow in grace" is to understand that "*faith is the gift of GOD*" and to glory in HIM who gives faith. That man who grows in grace is humbled before the KING as he is brought to behold that there is therefore now no condemnation to the sons of GOD. He is constrained by love rather than threats and rejoices in the unconditional promises of CHRIST.

To grow in grace is to be brought to love and esteem the brethren above oneself. It is evidenced by a delight in showing mercy as much as one delights in being the recipient thereof. He who grows in grace delights in forgiveness and rejoices as he is enabled to live peaceably with all men. To grow in grace is to rejoice in the singularity of the gospel, wherein CHRIST is the CENTER, SUM, and SUBSTANCE. That man who grows in grace delights in the simplicity of the profound message which Paul declared; "*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*" To grow in grace is to desire that CHRIST alone be magnified, whether it be in life or in death. May HE cause us to grow in grace.

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