

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

I don't suppose there is a doctrine, having to do with the salvation of sinners, which is more fundamental to the gospel, than that of "justification". Yet there is probably no other doctrine anymore misunderstood and misapplied than this. If a man errs on the teaching of this doctrine, then it is certain that practically every other doctrine which he would seek to set forth will necessarily be skewed or twisted as a result. The basis, upon which men are expected and exhorted to be the followers of CHRIST, will revolve around demands to fulfill the law or perform some duty, in some respect, if a man fails to grasp the true grounds upon which the "justification" of the saints of GOD fully rests.

Paul's letter to the Galatians was written primarily to set the record straight on this very matter and a proper understanding of this book is necessary to having a proper understanding of sound doctrine, which relates to this subject, and in essence the very nature and purpose of the preaching of the gospel itself.

The natural religion of man requires that he be found performing some deed (often even called faith) in order to gain the attention and favor of GOD. Practically every religious order and sect in the Earth maintains this notion in one form or another. Sadly even the majority of those who profess to be the followers of CHRIST and who would claim to revere HIS teachings hold to this same line of thought in varying degrees and applications.

The preponderance of teaching today holds that men are required to "do something" in order to be justified. This "something" is generally defined as "having faith". They tell us that that all men are born under the wrath of GOD, with the sentence of condemnation upon their heads. The only way that this sentence can be lifted is for them to express faith in JESUS CHRIST who has graciously provided a means of justification for all who will take advantage of it, and the moment that this faith is "seen" in them, GOD then removes condemnation and pronounces them "justified".

The "faith" by which the sons of GOD are "justified" is not their own faith but rather the "*faith of CHRIST*". Paul said, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*" The "faith" by which he lives is the faith by which he is justified.

How else could the apostle speak of being "*crucified with CHRIST*" unless he was "*in CHRIST*" when CHRIST was crucified? It is this union with CHRIST which is described as being from before the foundation of the world. Thus we observe that the entire basis of our "justification" is in that which HE has performed for us before we ever drew our first breath. So in order to properly understand "justification by faith" then it is most necessary to look at what the scripture says about the "*faith of CHRIST*".

The LORD JESUS CHRIST, GOD in the flesh, became the SERVANT of GOD, humbling HIMSELF to the death of the cross in order to redeem that bride which is HIS. This HE did as a human being, taking upon HIMSELF the likeness of sinful flesh, walking upon this earth as a perfect MAN, without sin, and full of faith. At every turn of HIS life HE demonstrated the perfect faith of a perfect MAN. Thus we see the "*faith of CHRIST*" in action.

We see the "*faith of CHRIST*" in its manifestation in men, as HE is pleased to grant faith to those who have none, nor possess the ability to gain it by any other means. This faith is applied and provided by HIM apart from any work, duty, or effort on the part of those to whom it is given. The "*faith of CHRIST*" is that body of truth upon which the children of GOD rely upon, and have an abiding HOPE therein that HE shall keep them from falling, preserve them until HE returns for HIS purchased possession, and dwell with them forever. This is the doctrine of CHRIST, which is synonymous with the "*faith of CHRIST*".

The sole grounds of the "justification" of the saints of GOD rests upon the work which CHRIST has performed as their MEDIATOR, SUBSTITUTE, and REDEEMER. This is the "*faith of CHRIST*", All other ground is sinking sand. "*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) ,**