

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

It is commonly accepted among the legions of religious men; that GOD is pleased when men keep HIS law and is angry when they do not. Thus it is equally common to find them promoting morality and the performance of "good deeds" as a means of gaining the favor of GOD, and enhancing their own standing with HIM.

This thought process is that which depends upon the supposed "free will" of men, as the basis and means whereby this obedience and performance takes place. Cain demonstrates this line of thought in the very early days of mankind's existence as he took the fruit of the labor of his own hands and brought it to the LORD as an offering. He was then angry when he (and his offering) was rejected by the LORD, and ultimately slew his own brother (Abel), whose person and offering of blood was received by the LORD.

In this action we see pictured the rejection, by the natural man of that ONE who alone has a righteousness which is acceptable in Heaven. Abel was received (by the LORD); not because of his actions, but because HE was beloved in CHRIST who is illustrated in both Abel and in his OFFERING which is typical of that BLOOD SACRIFICE which the LORD JESUS made as the SUBSTITUTE and MEDIATOR of HIS people, beloved from before the foundation of the world.

The very thought that GOD would determine the salvation of HIS people, rather than them determining it is reprehensible to the natural man. He recoils at such a notion and is often ready to destroy those who would proclaim this to be the case. He also strongly opposes the truth which declares that men do not possess the ability to gain the favor of GOD by actions of their own, and that HIS favor is bestowed not on the basis of conditions which they meet, but strictly according to HIS promise which is conferred by grace.

It is because of a failure to comprehend the dire estate of man as desperately wicked and completely separated from GOD due to that wickedness and willing blindness, that causes men to suppose that they possess power to come into HIS presence with offerings and activities which they presume to be righteous and acceptable in HIS sight. Many who will profess to being the followers of CHRIST, expect that they can influence the blessing of GOD by their actions and expect that they shall be rewarded for adherence to HIS ways by their carnal obedience.

That man, however, who is convinced of his innate corruption and carnal separation from GOD, confesses that he has not one shred of hope which is not bestowed upon himself by the goodness of GOD which leads him to repentance. He expects nothing in return but desires to be found faithful to HIM who has called him out of darkness and into the light.

The true glory of the gospel is beheld, as one is enabled to see that the very world itself was designed as a stage upon which GOD would manifest the glory of HIS grace in the deliverance of that people whom HE loved from the beginning. In order that this grace might be magnified, HE has revealed the absolute nature of that law which HE has placed mankind under. It is a law which has no remedy for those who break its precepts. In this HE would demonstrate the fact that HE will not acquit the wicked nor clear the guilty. The wages of sin is death. This is the dark backdrop upon which the grandest demonstration of mercy could then be displayed, even as diamonds are displayed upon black velvet in the jewelers shop.

MERCY and TRUTH are met together, in the declaration of the gospel to ruined sinners, but RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE have kissed each other as the very basis of this redemption is set forth. MERCY was not enough to satisfy the claims of HIS justice. Thus HE fulfilled the Law in its jot and tittle and placed the basis of HIS people's salvation not simply upon mercy but upon justice as well. "*: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*" HE has brought a perfect salvation unto those who have been the objects of HIS love from the beginning.

The SPIRIT bears witness (to those that believe) of the complete and finished work of CHRIST in their behalf. JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified is the sole grounds of their peace.

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