

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Some Bible scholars describe the last twelve books of the Old Testament as the "Minor Prophets". The implication is that these books were the product of those prophets which occupied a "second tier" of importance or were not quite as useful as the "major prophets" such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

This same notion is quite popular in today's, man centered religious world as various "preachers" become "famous" because of their oratorical skills, and they take on the air of being "experts" and "indispensable" spokesmen for GOD, by the earthly success of their book sales, informative seminars, and burgeoning congregations. They are for the most part able to scratch the ears of their followers, but they seldom unequivocally preach and exalt the glory and purpose of GOD in the redemption of HIS elect bride. They prefer to apprise men of their duties and "ought-to's" They sometimes preach "grace", yet it is seldom without a "but" which segues into the sovereignty of man's supposed "free-will".

There are no "unimportant" or "minor" tellers of the truth of GOD. The declaration of the gospel is not committed into the hands of a favored "few" but rather is given to those whom HE sends. There are no experts of Bible knowledge, nor are there any who have the answer to every question which can be raised by men. There is no class of men who occupy a favored position among the saints simply because they can dazzle their hearers with speechifying and theatrics.

Paul declared as much when he declared his own weakness in the area of public speaking. yet pointed out that the power of preaching lies not in the gift of gab, but rather in the power of the truth which is set forth as the SPIRIT moves upon the hearers. *"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."* (1Cor 2:4-5)

We can see this very principle demonstrated on the day of Pentecost, as the LORD caused the mixed multitude (of many languages and dialects) to "hear" in their own language or tongue. There is some indication that those followers of CHRIST who were gathered there that day actually "spoke" in languages which they had not heretofore learned or conversed in yet there is no doubt that many "heard" what was said in their own native tongues. There are some who tell us that men can "learn" to speak in these "tongues", yet there is no indication of such anywhere in the scriptures. This ability must be bestowed by the power of GOD, quite apart from the will and purpose of men.

I don't suppose it is any stranger for those, who revel in free will, to believe that men can learn to speak in tongues than it is for them to believe that men can "learn" to preach the gospel by going to Bible school or seminary. These are "gifts" bestowed by the SPIRIT, the power of which cannot be enhanced by the will and ways of men. The husk of outward babbling or oration can certainly be produced by man, but that power which accompanies the true preaching of the gospel must come from a SOURCE quite outside the realm of man's learning or his gyrations of the flesh.

Peter declared that what was being manifested on the day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. This is the manifestation of the most momentous event to occur in the course of human history. This was the ushering in of the fullness of the "last days". There are many "johnny come lately" "prophets" who tell us that the "last days" are coming, or perhaps they think this time we are living in are the "last days." The reality is that the "last days" were ushered in by the outpouring of GOD's SPIRIT on HIS people. As John said, "*it is the last time*: We are not waiting for the last days. These are the last days! What Joel prophesied has been demonstrated. We are not waiting for some "new message" or "mystery" which is to be delivered to us by the mouth of some "anointed" prophet. *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*(Heb 1:1-2)

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