

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

If there is one thing that is common to every religion upon the earth, it is the notion that a man can adopt its precepts and gain an understanding of its doctrines through the power of his free will and the proper instruction in its doctrines by those who are its "teachers" and "holy men". We can see this false concept creeping in among the sheep, quite soon after the establishment of the LORD's church in the earth. This is the common path of the flesh.

The LORD sent HIS apostles into the world with the commission to declare the truth to all who would hear it and to baptize them in HIS NAME. It was not long before there arose contentions and divisions among them, based largely upon preferences of personalities towards those who were sent with this commission. Paul warned the Ephesian elders of this reality.

Sadly, many who find themselves in places of leadership often capitalize upon this "position" to seek out those who will "follow" them as they establish "congregations" who are taught to rely upon the "pastor's" expertise in obtaining knowledge of heavenly things, rather than being encouraged to scrutinize their teaching, and to seek truth for themselves

False doctrine gains its foothold through strong personalities who love "followers" and promote the notion that great reliance should be placed upon what they say, and how they say it, rather than inviting scrutiny and questions from their "hearers". Out of this arises the "cult of the authoritarian preacher" whose word is to be received as inviolable. Those who raise questions are usually viewed as "troublemakers" or worse.

The preaching of the truth, is one of the great blessings which the LORD has given to HIS saints, yet men will always corrupt that which is holy, and because of the weakness of the flesh will turn that which is of great service to the sons of GOD to that which serves the flesh. Because of this, the flesh will usually gravitate towards strong and oratorically gifted men. Divisions will arise over these "performers" and their "performances" as more emphasis is placed upon the ability of the preacher than upon the ministry of the members of the body one to another.

Paul was disappointed at the report of such "divisions" which had arisen among the Corinthians, and he admonished them about these departures from the basis of the Christian FAITH. He plainly exhorted them that the basis of true faith is not that which is conveyed by men but rather through the power and operation of the SPIRIT of TRUTH. Thus he declared his determination to preach only one message, "JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified" which was not enhanced by flowery phrases or orations which were designed to tickle the ears and impress the hearers, in order to get them to follow him like the Pied Piper of preaching.

Even as Paul solicited no monetary gain from his hearers, so too should all who are given teaching gifts, be diligent to deflect all praise of those gifts to the only ONE who is worthy of praise and to encourage their hearers to have no confidence in any man regardless of his gift. In addition the encouragement of each part of the body to minister to the whole must be emphasized even as Paul did to the churches which he ministered to. The only AUTHORITY that exists among the saints of GOD is that which is found in CHRIST and manifested in the activity of the body as a whole.

Paul demonstrated the difference between that "religion" which is, completely, of and in the SPIRIT and that which is of the flesh. In doing this he used the example of two quite diverse groups, to manifest the fact that regardless of what religious or non-religious bent men may have, they are nonetheless united in their opposition to the TRUTH of GOD, and consider the declaration of the Gospel to be "foolishness". Though their perspectives are quite different their conclusions are the same. He said "*the Jews require a sign.*" This is descriptive of the superstitious nature of man in the flesh which seeks some experience in the flesh or some tradition to rely upon. Then he said, "*the Greeks seek after wisdom.*" The Greeks were those who relished in intellectual pursuits and loved to debate about great matters of philosophy and worldly wisdom. That wisdom which is from above, is "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*"

"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) ,**