

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

The radio and TV airwaves are full of religious shysters, charlatans, and beggars who promise the gullible, riches and other blessings, for “sowing” their tithes and offerings in these various ministries of greed. Some are not as intent on gain as others, but nonetheless seek to stir up their hearers to perform this work or that and to gain their assurance from their decisions and effort. They find a ready audience since men by nature have an innate attraction to religious endeavor and need little encouragement to value such enterprise even if they are not so ready to personally engage in it. Some merely consider its value from afar but are nonetheless convinced that such endeavors are the key to blessing from GOD. This notion basically arises out of the consideration of men that GOD is *“altogether such a one”* as themselves. *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”*

By nature, men consider that they have some value to GOD which arises out of their own characters rather than their worth being that which HE is pleased to determine and grant according to HIS own purpose. This is why the natural man recoils at the notion that GOD has made some vessels unto honor and some unto dishonor. Paul knew man’s rebellious nature to the notion of GOD’s absolute sovereignty when he said, *“Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?”*

Those who place great value in religion reject the notion that there is not one thing that men can do to influence GOD or change the course which HE has ordained. Rather than taking great comfort in the truth that *“Our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”* they can only rail against such a concept and busily go about to build their houses and kingdoms convinced that they can steer GOD which way they please or at least gain HIS favor by their own decisions, prayers, and actions. The Pharisees were convinced that GOD was very pleased with their “obedience” and “sacrifice”, and proudly carried out their religious duties openly for all to see.

That man who has been caused to believe the promises of GOD (revealed in the gospel of CHRIST) must of necessity cast all of his care upon the LORD. He has been convinced of his own worthiness of destruction and knows that apart from the mercy of GOD he shall surely perish. He confesses with Job, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”* He has no confidence in the flesh. As David confessed, *“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?”*

The foolish are those who speak of their service and cannot believe that what they are doing (or avoiding) is not valuable. It is impossible for them to consider that their deeds of “righteousness” (which they esteem so highly), are yet as dung in the sight of GOD. Yet those who are the objects of HIS grace have no consideration at all of the worth of those good deeds to which they are ordained by the SPIRIT of GOD to perform. They see them as the mere bestowal of GOD’s mercy and favor and not a function of their effort. The man who thinks that he can somehow gain GOD’s favor (whether temporal or eternal) by the works of his own hands is a foolish man. Paul described the salvation of GOD’s people in this fashion, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”*

This is the total end of human endeavor. There can be no mixture of labor and mercy or works and grace. All of the blessings of GOD’s anointed ones are theirs according to HIS grace and mercy and are in no wise predicated upon their endeavors. That man who by the grace of GOD has been given ears to hear and eyes to behold a crucified CHRIST has ceased from his labor. There is no “weariness” to the quickened sons of GOD for they have been shown not only the WAY to the city but by the abundant mercy and grace of GOD have been given an entrance into it by no effort of their own. *“So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”* *“That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”* What do you glory in?

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