

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

The leaders of the Jews relished the notion of a MESSIAH who would come and establish the throne of HIS kingdom in the earth. They spoke of HIM often and longed for HIS appearing daily. Yet when HE came and walked in their very midst, they ultimately despised HIM and conspired to destroy HIM. At first, they marveled at HIS words and were amazed at HIS miracles. Yet the day came when they began to realize that what HE was teaching and doing was laying the axe to the root of their long-cherished traditions and seats of power. Not only that, but HIS doctrine was such that it gave a man no place that he might glory in his own obedience to the external code of the Mosaic Law.

Religion of one sort or another fills a very convenient need among natural men. It gives men the opportunity to compare themselves among themselves and by the setting apart of a “clergical (or priestly) class” of men, gives them an air of respectability and acceptance among the institutions of the world which highly prize strong leaders. If a man is a tither or a Sabbath keeper, or is skilled at oratory or public prayers, or wears certain garments or coverings, etc, then religion affords him an occasion to put that on display before other men.

All men (according to their Adamic nature) love these convenient forms to some extent and all organized religion promotes such forms in one fashion or another, whether the excuse for their promotion, is tradition or a desire to encourage order and unity and/or the belief that adherence to truth can be perpetuated by these various forms, however subtle they might be.

SPIRITUAL worship is simply that, it is unadorned in any way, and is contrary to the desire of the flesh. This startling truth is set forth quite clearly by the LORD when HE spoke to the woman at the well; *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”* The affiliations of the flesh along with its motions have no weight in the kingdom of GOD. This is not to say that where there are “forms” and “traditions” that men cannot worship GOD, but it is to say that these “forms” cannot facilitate or “enhance” the worship of HIM who must be worshipped in SPIRIT and TRUTH. The religious flesh of men will often substitute or mistake these forms for true worship or rely upon them as if they were true worship. Such was the error of the Pharisees.

The central message of the Gospel is clearly the redemptive work of JESUS CHRIST for sinners. *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* The finished work of CHRIST in obtaining the eternal redemption of HIS people renders as useless any religious work that might be offered by men as a means of being counted righteous before the face of GOD. One hundred percent of the standing of GOD’s elect before HIM as those who are without sin, justified, and glorified is owing to the imputation of HIS righteousness to them. The manifestation and culmination of that imputation is seen in the finished work of CHRIST on Calvary’s cross. It is impossible to properly declare the scriptural doctrine of the atoning and redemptive work of CHRIST if one does not magnify the totality of that work as the redemption of those for whom HE came into the world to save. It is a perversion of the gospel to speak of that which CHRIST performed as being any sort of general offering for sin or a payment for sin which is only effective pending some response by men.

The basis of modern “Christendom” is built upon the notion that CHRIST has merely made salvation possible by HIS death (for every individual in the world,) with the final outcome of whether or not it is effective depending on whether or not men believe it. The salvation of GOD’s people, according to this notion, is therefore dependent on the free will of men. This becomes the actual basis of their salvation, rendering the work of CHRIST as a mere part of the whole. Such a doctrine was conceived in the pit of hell and designed to minimize the glory of GOD and maximize the glory of men.

Just as the Jews arose against the teachings of CHRIST when HE struck at their seats of power so too, does the natural religious man recoil at the message of the particular redemption and definite atonement of CHRIST as the SIN SUBSTITUTE for HIS elect children, hidden in HIM from before the foundation of the world. The work of CHRIST alone is quite sufficient for those who, know HIM to be their RIGHTEOUSNESS, they desire nothing else. A true gospel preacher can have no other message than JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified.

Complete atonement thou hast made, and to the utmost farthing paid

Whate’er thy people owed; How then can wrath on me take place,

If sheltered in thy righteousness, And sprinkled with thy blood?

[ *“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)**