

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

The power of the gospel rests not in the zeal with which it is proclaimed. Nor does its communication depend upon the level of oratory or theological depth with which it might be delivered by men. Rather its power is seen in the simplicity of the truth which defines it and its declaration is effectual unto the salvation of its hearers, only as it is accompanied by the presence of the SPIRIT of GOD to open the eyes of the blind to see its truth and unstop the ears of the deaf that they might hear it. Paul clearly understood this as he declared that he preached with no ulterior motive, nor any agenda which he was trying to accomplish. He told the Corinthians that he was compelled to declare it. *“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”* So, it is with everyone who is called by GOD to declare these unsearchable riches. This is not a “part time” occupation, nor is it a “profession” which is pursued by men desiring to enrich themselves with this world’s goods or who expect that their every need should be supplied by others. Neither is it the calling of those who love to have the preeminence, gathering unto themselves a following of adoring hearers while promoting their status as a “prophet”, “teacher of mysteries”, or anecdotal genius.

The preaching of the gospel is not for the purpose of gaining converts, though it is certain that some will hear it and believe according to GOD’s sovereign purpose. The preaching of it is not for the purpose of gaining members in a local congregation, though some will indeed hear it and will be added to the church. Rather the declaration of the gospel of CHRIST is for the magnifying of CHRIST’s name and HIS eternal purpose in the unfolding of the work of redemption for lost and ruined sinners. Thus, there is no useful purpose in “handling the word of GOD deceitfully,” nor walking in craftiness, much less being dishonest in our declaration of HIS word. So, we read Paul’s statement, *“But (we) have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully.”* *“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”*

The most common form of “walking in craftiness” and “handling the word of GOD deceitfully” is found as some preachers shun to declare the whole counsel of GOD. They do this by declaring only those parts of scripture which seem to agree with their distorted notion of a gospel which requires the participation of men. Many of them pay lip service to believing that salvation is by grace alone, but they belie their true sentiments by seeking to use this world’s wisdom to gain “converts” or “win souls”. They dishonestly declare that CHRIST has paid the debt of sin, while also declaring that men must believe it in order to make it effectual. This would be no “payment” at all but merely a “partial deposit” which depends on a further transaction. Such is not the Gospel.

Paul said *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.”* His preaching was not an exercise in displaying human talents nor trying to persuade men to believe by eloquent arguments designed to appeal to the natural reason of men. He had but one message, which is the very heart and soul of the gospel, which is, *“JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified”*. Sheer folly and pride would cause a man to declare any other message than this. Those who are given grace to be proclaimers of this gospel are nothing more than servants to those who are appointed to be the heirs of eternal life. They have no status which would cause them to become lords over their hearers. Paul did not bill himself as a “rock star” nor expect that his message would be heard because of anything which he either was or promoted himself to be.

He clearly stated that the only means whereby the message which he preached would be “heard” was if the LORD was pleased to shine upon it with the LIGHT which only HE could grant. He knew that the only way for any man to see this truth was to be shown it in the same fashion as he was. The only place that the glory of GOD can be seen at all is in the PERSON of JESUS CHRIST. *“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”* It is impossible that a man could ever be acquainted with GOD in any sense, except that he be given eyes to behold JESUS CHRIST who is the *“fullness of the GODHEAD bodily”*.

Seeing the glory of the REDEEMER of sinners is the revelation of HIS glory which HE is pleased to shine in the hearts of HIS elect. None of HIS disciples could in any wise claim that they had arrived at this conclusion through human reason. *“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* The glory of the gospel is in CHRIST and not those who preach it.

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