

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

One of mankind's greatest pastimes is seen in their practice of comparing themselves to others. This habit is that which gave rise to the cliché, "keeping up with the Jones". I believe this tendency was what gave rise to the slaying of Abel by his brother Cain. As he saw Abel's offering respected by the LORD, while his own was not respected. We see it in the brothers of Joseph as they saw his favor in the eyes of his father. We see it exhibited to some degree in the sin of Ananais and Sapphira, as they saw others giving of their possessions and thought they would appear as magnanimous in the eyes of their brethren. It is quite common for men to compare themselves unto others when they are judging the obedience to which the LORD has called HIS people. They often take comfort in their own levels of commitment and obedience to the ways of the LORD when they look around them and see others engaged in various activities which they would never even think of being involved in. Many "sects" and "denominations" pat themselves on the back as they compare their own "faithfulness" compared to those they consider either too "strict" or not "strict enough."

We see many get on various hobby horses which they ride with secret pride, as they look around themselves and pick out the sins of others while counting their own failings as not nearly as bad. One of the more prominent areas of this is found when the subject of sodomy or "homosexuality" is discussed. One can quite readily gather a chorus of "amens" if this particular form of wickedness is exposed for what it is and the perpetrators are consigned to hell. "Gay marriage" is roundly condemned yet if one should mention that divorce, fornication, or gluttony is equally hated in the eyes of HIM who is of purer eyes than to look upon sin, many grow silent and desire to move on to another topic since it hits closer to home for some who decry the "sodomites".

GOD hates sin; will judge sin; and will destroy the perpetrators thereof; for "*the wages of sin is death.*" Our obedience in following the LORD's commands is not to be considered by comparing ourselves to others or vice versa. Paul said, "*but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*" It matters not how your walk compares to the relative wickedness of other men. The LORD calls HIS children to walk according to the ONE acceptable STANDARD which is given to them. CHRIST is our EXAMPLE. When we compare ourselves to HIM, we must all confess that we have failed miserably regardless of how we may stack up compared to others. The scripture plainly tells us that the man who shall dwell in the presence of the LORD is of a sinless character and pure in thought and deed. JESUS CHRIST is the only MAN who can dwell in the presence of a Holy GOD.

The Psalmist said that the LORD shall "*behold the upright.*" The only upright man upon whom HIS gaze is set is HE whom HE has made "*to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" There is ONE STANDARD of righteousness, and ONE who has measured up to that STANDARD, being the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD in HIMSELF. Apart from being found "in HIM" a man can have no righteousness at all. The FATHER loves HIS SON with an eternal love and HE has ever been before HIS FATHER's face as that ONE beloved as HIS only BEGOTTEN SON. Before Adam was created, the LORD did "*behold the UPRIGHT*" and took pleasure in HIM. HE is indeed the "*righteous LORD*" who "*loveth RIGHTEOUSNESS.*" None other will do. So how can a man be found in the "*secret place of the MOST HIGH*" except he be hidden in HIM who abides "*under the shadow of the ALMIGHTY*" This can only occur by and according to the sovereign purpose of GOD who has created a people which HE chose in CHRIST from before the foundation of the world. Their union to and subsequent election in CHRIST makes them accepted in HIM as HE does impute HIS righteousness to them and they are seen in CHRIST as upright because HE is UPRIGHT.

The LORD said "*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*" Those that are enabled to "*behold the UPRIGHT*" and rejoice therein are those who believe, calling upon the LORD. They desire no righteousness but that which is HIS. Have you beheld the UPRIGHT? "*Thy free grace alone,*" #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthepoor@windstream.net](mailto:forthepoor@windstream.net)**