

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

There is a certain and proper order in which all things are done in the kingdom of GOD. When a man confuses that order or seeks to rearrange it, he becomes a perverter of the truth and is found to be fighting against the truth rather than for it. We have all heard the familiar idiom, “putting the cart before the horse.” We can laugh at expecting to go for a ride in a cart which is in front of the horse rather than behind it. Yet it is no laughing matter when men reverse the order of the work of GOD in the salvation of HIS people. There is no shortage of those who would declare that GOD works in men who first exercise faith and obedience to the commands of GOD. In fact it is considered an oddity by the masses to hear someone teach the scriptural doctrine which states the exact opposite.

Today’s salvation peddlers go about the country side telling all who will listen that GOD will deliver them if they will only believe. Most say that a man can receive and believe the gospel anytime he so chooses. They say that if a man is faithful, then GOD will bless him. They picture the LORD of heaven and earth waiting with hands tied; just hoping someone will believe the gospel so that HE can open the windows of heaven to them. This line of thinking does not only get the cart before the horse, but actually shoots the horse and expects the cart to move by itself.

Faith is not the cause of GOD’s blessing to men. Rather, faith is the evidence of GOD’s blessing given to those whom HE is pleased to save. *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”* Many today confuse the saints by using the term *“foreknowledge”* to purport that GOD chose HIS elect by “knowing ahead of time” what men would. This makes the Sovereign GOD of the universe to be a mere fortune teller.

The LORD set forth the proper order when HE said to HIS disciples, *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”* The word *“foreknowledge”* means to “love beforehand” or to “ordain according to purpose”. Luke uses this word when he says, *“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”* David understood this proper order when he declared, *“Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.”* Even as the hymn writer, Josiah Conder penned these words in 1836; *“Tis not that I did choose THEE, for LORD that could not be, my heart would still refuse THEE, had’st THOU not chosen me.”*

It is a characteristic of those who have been born again to both delight in the word and teaching of GOD and to cast oneself upon HIS mercy. In whom else can their trust be found? The language of praise is that which is fluently spoken by those who have been brought out of darkness and into the LIGHT. It would be easier to find darkness emanating from the Sun at noonday than it would be to find those who are made alive in CHRIST JESUS without any desire to praise HIS NAME.

The prevailing notion of the present day is that the blessings of GOD are poured out when and if men praise HIM. Yet this is putting the cart before the horse. The reason that any man praises the LORD is because the LORD has already blessed HIM by giving HIM a desire to praise HIS name. Life must precede action and it is only those who have been quickened and made alive by CHRIST who will ever have any desire to praise HIM in the highest. Men do not influence GOD, rather, GOD moves men according to the good pleasure of HIS will.

Many teach that man can and must be convinced to believe the gospel through the persuasive and oratorical preaching of it. Yet dead men cannot hear. They must be quickened by a power which is totally apart from any words which can be spoken by men. Men hear and believe because they have been awakened from the dead by the power of the HOLY GHOST. *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”* To say that men are born again because they believe is to put the cart before the horse. GOD is the first cause of all events and the salvation of HIS people is an event which is totally performed by HIM for HIS glory and their benefit. HE shows mercy to whosoever HE wills. Men cannot cause themselves to be the objects of that mercy by any endeavor, prayer, or act of so-called faith. GOD is rich in mercy to all who call upon HIS name. None who ever come to HIM with a broken and contrite heart shall ever be turned away. *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* Yet none will call upon HIM until HE is pleased to give them life. And those upon whom HE is pleased to show this mercy shall both hear and believe. Do you believe HIM to be the KING of Kings and LORD of Lords?

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