

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

When a man is brought under deep conviction by the SPIRIT of GOD then all of the assurances and encouragements of men become as so much dung and can minister no help nor relief from the gloomy cloud of sin’s blackness that he is made acquainted with. Davidsaid, *“There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin. For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease: and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and sore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.”*

Should GOD be pleased to leave HIS children in such a state of complete despair then I am sure that most would go completely insane or even be suicidal. But the same mercy that plows the field also sows the blessed seeds of the gospel which are designed to cause the field to blossom as a rose and send forth a fragrance sweeter than wine. There is indeed a “BALM in Gilead”, there is a GREAT PHYSICIAN who does bind up those running sores and applies the mollifying ointment of HIS grace to those sin sick souls who cry out day and night for HIS mercy. HE is pleased to make them aware that it is HE *“Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

The gospel message which is sent by the LORD does not confer life but it is used by GOD to inform HIS people, that have been given life by HIS SPIRIT, that JESUS CHRIST has cancelled the sin debt of all of those for which HE shed HIS blood and has given them the kingdom. The foundation and basis of all that HE would have them to rely upon is the work of JESUS CHRIST in their behalf. *“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”*

Because of this flesh we are plagued with, we yet see through a glass darkly and we even find ourselves doubting from time to time whether or not we are indeed included in that number of those for whom HE poured out HIS soul as an offering for sin. But we can never abandon that hope that is set before us. We have confidence that JESUS CHRIST is indeed the only SAVIOR of sinners and it is to HIM that we cannot help but look with expectancy from that gift of faith which we have been given. We are even as Job exclaimed, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”*

As we hear the glorious gospel of the blessed GOD we are ever encouraged to look outside of ourselves unto HIM who is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith. The work of HIS SPIRIT leads us into all truth and even gives us (from time to time) sweet foretastes of the glory which shall yet be revealed in us. The more we are acquainted with HIS provisions for us the less confidence we have in anything that is spotted with this flesh, most especially any reliance upon our ability to believe and/or remain steadfast. HE alone is our HOPE. *“Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

Only in HIM do we have any assurance whatsoever for it is in HIM that we have the assurance of hope. We cannot have any assurance which is built upon the false foundation of our own actions but rather our assurance comes as HE is pleased to manifest the glory of HIS grace in the face of JESUS CHRIST to our conscience through the work of HIS SPIRIT as HE applies the truth revealed in the gospel to our very souls. This is Blessed assurance indeed.

How oft have sin and Satan strove To rend my soul from thee, my God!

But everlasting is thy love, And Jesus seals it with his blood.

The oath and promise of the Lord Join to confirm the wondrous grace,

Eternal power performs the word, And fills all heaven with endless praise.

Amidst temptations sharp and long, My soul to this dear refuge flies;

Hope is my anchor, firm and strong, While tempests blow and billows rise.

The gospel bears my spirit up; A faithful and unchanging God,

Lays the foundation of my hope, In oaths, and promises, and blood.

*“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email***

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