

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Paul was a master at the use of comparisons and contrasts in declaring the glorious truth of the gospel. This is nowhere more clearly displayed than in Romans 5:21 *"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ."*

As the LORD prophetically declared unto Adam, *"in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"*, this soon came to pass. We know that Adam's physical body did not cease to function on that day, but we do know that "death" entered into him and his corruption began gnawing at his vitals. Nine hundred and thirty years later came the ultimate triumph of that corruption which was, first, ushered in by his initial disobedience.

The death of the physical body is the manifestation of a triumphal enemy insofar as its power over this mortal flesh is concerned. The introduction of death to the human race, serves a two-fold purpose. One is to demonstrate the LORD's hatred of sin and its insidious nature, along with HIS determination to pass judgment on all who violate HIS holy law. Secondly, and more importantly HE would use it to demonstrate HIS glory in the redemption of sinners, from the condemnation of the law and its resulting curse of death.

The "reign" of "sin unto death" is a testament to the power and purpose of GOD. It is a force, over which HE has complete control at all times. As HE said, *"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."* (Deut.32:39) HE, alone, assigns the time, place, and circumstance of death. HE is death's sole MASTER before whom the earth must tremble. *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* HE that holds the keys of death and hell is an absolute POTENTATE, whose will shall be done in the Earth as it is in the Heavens.

Just as the LORD designed death and appointed it to accomplish HIS purpose, so too has HE already marked out its utter demise when that purpose is fulfilled. *"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."* (1Cor 15:26) John saw this from afar as he tells us in the book of the Revelation. *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire."* *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death---for the former things are passed away."*

In the same fashion as *"sin hath reigned unto death"* so too does HIS grace triumph over it, as HE demonstrates HIS mastery in bringing glory to HIS matchless NAME by manifesting the righteousness of CHRIST unto eternal life. Just as HE ordained the "reign of sin unto death" in the whole human race, so too has HE ordained the imputation of CHRIST's righteousness upon those who are the called according to HIS purpose. This is the means and basis, whereby HE would bestow eternal life upon them, who are dead in trespasses and sins by nature.

Thus we can compare the "reign of sin unto death" with the "reign of grace through righteousness." They are both ordained of GOD. They both have their chief manifestation in the sons of men. They both redound unto the glory of GOD.

Yet it is in the contrast of these two principles wherein we see the fullness of HIS glory in the manifestation of HIS mercy, telling Moses, *"I will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."* The purpose of death is to set a stage for the unveiling of HIS glory in the bestowal of mercy upon unworthy wretches. Mercy and not condemnation is that which the LORD would showcase in the revelation of HIS purpose in the creation of the world in bringing glory to HIS NAME.

It is this revealed mercy and grace which is set forth in the declaration of the Gospel even as the angels first proclaimed to those shepherds on the hills of Judea, HE has not sent his messengers into the world for the purpose of declaring threats of hell and destruction to the inhabitants of the earth but rather to declare the opening of the prison for those that are bound and a sweet message of hope to those who find themselves in a hopeless condition. In this we see the "reign of grace" displayed as the gospel is preached to sinners. Are you a sinner?

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