

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

The very first lie that was ever told to men came from the lips of Satan, when he said to Eve, “*Ye shall not surely die.*” Thus, he is called the “*father of lies*” He did not tell Eve this lie to help her but in order that he might destroy her and her posterity. The destructive power of death is not just in the fact that these bodies age and decay, but rather in the ability of death to bring men into fear and bondage as their conscience testifies of approaching judgment. Satan is said to have the power of death, not because he has some sovereign reign over death and can administer it whenever he pleases, but rather because he has been given the ability to wound the sons of men by his deception which in turn results in their ultimate destruction. The only ONE who has sovereign power and control to administer death is HE who says, “*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.*” HE spoke to HIS disciples saying, “*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.*” Let no man mistake the fact that life and death is in the hands of the ONE true and living GOD who made the heavens and earth and by whom all things consist. Seeing that man’s “*days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass.*”

All men have been given an appointment with death by HIM who sets the bounds of our habitation, for which they cannot be early or late. “*It is appointed unto men once to die.*” When Eve was deceived by Satan’s lie and took of that forbidden fruit her body did not cease to function, but the real power of death was brought upon her. Adam ate of that same fruit and, in so doing, died the same death which she did; bringing the power of death upon all of their posterity, and they did both indeed “die” in that very day. The power of death arises out of sin and is much more than the simple cessation of the beating of the heart. Sin has its strength (or power to condemn) by the law of GOD which is written in the conscience of every man. Though a man might delight in the commission of sin, there is nonetheless a bitterness associated with it, which cannot be escaped as a man contemplates the end of his days. Men have sought out many inventions in order to be able to cope with this “fear” and hide themselves from the gaze of the true and living GOD. The greatest of these inventions is the religion of the flesh. This takes on many forms, but all of these forms are the product of man seeking to escape the coming judgment.

Many of man’s religion(s) simply deny that there is any “judgment” and the followers of these “belief systems” go along as one who whistles as he passes the graveyard. Atheism and agnosticism are the clearest examples of this religion even as David described them “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*” Yet there are many others who while claiming a belief in GOD nonetheless deny that the sin of men must be accounted for. Then there are those religions which rely upon the notion that man is innately good. They convince themselves that man has intrinsic worth because of his supposed “godlike” qualities not the least of which is (as they put it) an eternal soul. They believe that GOD will recognize this “spark of good” and will ultimately receive sincere men as they pass from this life into a better one. Most funerals are preached today by men of this persuasion.

Those religions which worship the freewill of men, rely upon psychology to ensure men that they have the power to accomplish anything. This is the religion of Babel and the followers of it have not ceased to build a tower which reaches to heaven. They believe that men can bargain with GOD, earn favor in HIS sight by good deeds and obedience, and that men can be persuaded by natural reason to embrace the truth of GOD. Some of these psychologists have homogenized their thoughts with certain tenets of the faith of CHRIST, producing a very appealing product which is as much a lie as anything which the Serpent told Eve. They teach men that they can embrace the work of CHRIST and make it possible for HIM to save them as long as they give their approval.

This sort of false doctrine will satisfy men who can be satisfied with human reason but can do nothing to calm the fears of those who are awakened by the HOLY SPIRIT to see themselves as wicked and helpless sinners. They are stirred up to flee from the wrath to come but find no ability in themselves to embrace anything that would help them. They find themselves shut up to HIS mercy. But by the grace of GOD this is exactly the place wherein they find their greatest delight because they believe that CHRIST has actually procured salvation. Death has indeed lost its “sting” to those who are given faith to believe in CHRIST’s finished work.

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