

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

The religious tradition in which I was raised spoke of “salvation” as a state which a man could attain by acting in his own free will to accept what CHRIST had done by HIS death on Calvary’s cross. It taught that if a man could be persuaded to “believe” and “receive CHRIST” then he could attain a standing or position known as “salvation”. Folks were urged to “get saved” as soon as possible so that in case they died they would be assured of a place in heaven where they could join all of the other neighbors and loved ones who had made similar “decisions” and gained heaven by their action of faith, avoiding the pit of hell in the process. Though the work of CHRIST in dying on the cross was often spoken of, the true importance of what HE did was actually of secondary consequence since it was concluded that regardless of what HE had done on the cross, it made little difference if men did not “accept” it thereby making it effective in redeeming them. The basic concept which was taught was that CHRIST died for every individual on the face of the earth and had made the salvation of each one a possibility if they could just be persuaded to receive it and thereby gain its benefit; otherwise CHRIST had simply died in vain for all who did not believe.

While CHRIST’s work on the cross was said to be a payment for sin, yet the teaching was that no one was actually “saved” by it, only made “savable”. The only sin that was left “unpaid for” was that of unbelief. So that by adding the work of faith to that which CHRIST did on Calvary this made a man saved. They said the only thing that could cause a man to go to hell was “unbelief.” Therefore, much time was spent and various methodologies adopted in order to influence men to exercise their “free will” and effect their own salvation by accepting HIM and making a profession of faith. They could even write the day and hour of this transaction on a little card so if they ever began to doubt their “salvation” they could refer to the card and be assured. This scenario is played out in many churches and religious orders today with certain variations. Some require baptism in water as an act of obedience which washes away their sin, some expect that those who make such decisions to speak in a language unknown to men, some advocate that certain styles of dress be adopted, etc.

How different is the scriptural message concerning the “work of CHRIST”. HE came into the world in order to perform a specific work for which HE was ordained. As the angel told Joseph, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”* CHRIST is the REDEEMER, HE has bought and paid for the salvation of every one of those whom HE loved from before the foundation of the world. HE has not in any wise failed to do all that was needed in order to secure the redemption, justification, and sanctification of every one of them. *“But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.”*

When you ask a true believer to describe his “salvation”, he only needs one word: CHRIST. *“Christ is all, and in all.”* If he needs more then it is too much. *“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”* There is nothing lacking in that which CHRIST has performed. He has purchased the redemption of HIS people and imputed HIS perfect righteousness to their account. HE has sent HIS SPIRIT into the world to draw them to HIMSELF, leading them from darkness to LIGHT in the appointed hour. *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”* The salvation of the sons of GOD is totally the “work of CHRIST” from beginning to end. HE is *“the author and finisher of our faith”* Paul said, *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save (i.e.; except) Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”*

To declare that CHRIST performed a work of salvation for a man which is not sufficient to save him, apart from some action on the man’s part, is to preach a false gospel, counting the precious blood of CHRIST as shed in vain for many. It is to disregard the efficacy of the blood of the SON of GOD and to deny the prophecy of Isaiah, *“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”* Do you believe in a SAVIOR who saves or one who hopes to save?

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