

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

The LORD JESUS told HIS disciples that HE was going away from them for a season but would send to them a COMFORTER. HE then described to them the function of this COMFORTER . *“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.* The manner in which HE said that this comfort would come is quite odd to fleshly reason. HE said this COMFORTER would reprove the world of sin, *“because they believe not on me”*. This is indeed the greatest sin imaginable. Nor can any ever be “forgiven” for it. This is the sin against the HOLY GHOST. The SPIRIT of GOD testifies to the world that JESUS CHRIST is the SAVIOR of sinners and yet men turn a deaf ear to that witness because they are dead in trespasses and sin and receive not a love of the truth that they might be saved. They can blame no one but themselves. *“For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.”*

A man in the flesh cannot comprehend how a reproof for sin could ever be a comfort, yet every man who has been born again and given a SPIRIT of repentance welcomes this reproof falling upon his face confessing his sin, though his heart breaks within him, and the fear of the ALMIGHTY overwhelms him. *“Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend.”* So the work of the SPIRIT to “reprove” men of sin is a welcome relief to the sons of GOD and it is in this manner that the LORD is pleased to minister comfort to them as they are made to hate the garment spotted by the flesh as they cry out with the Apostle Paul. *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

HE also said that this COMFORTER would reprove the world, *“Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more.”* The earthly ministry of the LORD JESUS CHRIST was hidden from none, HE went about daily doing good unto men. The SPIRIT reproves the world in testifying of HIS righteousness each time the gospel is preached. Yet the very fact that HE rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the FATHER where HE ever lives to make intercession for those who come unto GOD by HIM, is a reproof unto all who doubt it. This same “reproof” which condemns the scoffers, is the basis of the blessed hope for those with *“like precious faith”* testifying that it is *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,”*

Then HE said that the COMFORTER would reprove the world *“because the prince of this world is judged.”* When the LORD JESUS went to Calvary’s cross, HE destroyed the power of darkness and made manifest HIS light to HIS elect who sat in that darkness. Those who worship and serve the creature are rebuked by HIS work as HE demonstrated HIS dominion over this world and its god, *“having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* Primarily the work of the SPIRIT in the sons of GOD is to grant them repentance. Most people think that repentance is merely synonymous with “remorse” or “sorrow” over acts of sin, yet true repentance is much more than a simple expression of regret.

Repentance is a recognition of what sin is. Sin is surely in men, but those who have been given eyes to see, recognize that they themselves are sin. David confessed it in his prayer of repentance saying, *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”* The work of the SPIRIT in HIS people will produce not only a remorse for the acts of sin which they have committed; but also a detestation of the very principle of sin which they freely confess controls their flesh and would destroy them apart from the mercy of GOD.

Repentance is a recognition of the ONE true source of righteousness, which is JESUS CHRIST the RIGHTEOUS. RIGHTEOUSNESS is acceptance with GOD, even as the FATHER testified; *“This is my beloved SON, in whom I am well pleased.”* There can be no repentance, except a man acknowledge this truth. Repentance is a recognition of both the right and glory of HIM who is the JUDGE of heaven and earth, to judge all things according to the STANDARD which HE has established. *“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”* The man who has never feared the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE has never been brought to see HIM as HE is. True repentance declares the justification of GOD in condemning them as Job says, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.”* yet causes them to cast themselves upon HIS mercy, believing in the sufficiency of the blood of CHRIST.

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