

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

Man, in his natural state, has a love/hate relationship to the law of GOD. On the one hand he is in a state of rebellion against it in his mind by wicked works, despising any and all restrictions which he would perceive to be contrary to the fulfilling of his carnal desires. On the other hand he has an unshakeable notion in his religious flesh that the law of GOD can actually serve him well and cause him to merit the favor of GOD as he imagines himself after a fashion to keep its precepts, at least occasionally and to some degree.

Paul being the epitome of a “religious man”, said that he was *“alive without the law once.”* As we study the context of this passage it is clear that he has reference to the time when he was without a true understanding of the law. When he says he was *“alive”* without the law, he means that when he was walking in the darkness of his fleshly religion he had no true, understanding of the pervasive nature of his sin, thinking himself to be righteous because of an outward adherence to the law. In this state he considered himself to be a “keeper” of the law and one who was worthy of the blessings which he thought to be attached to such “law keeping”. He goes on to say *“but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.”* He is speaking here of being awakened to the spiritual nature of the law. When he saw the law for what it was, a revealer of sin, it killed all hopes that he had in his religious flesh of ever keeping it and it brought him under its condemnation. *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

There is no fault in the law, it is both “holy and just”, nor has it ever been changed or canceled. It stands in all of its glory even as it did when the LORD declared it to Moses on Mt. Sinai, in a covenant with the nation of Israel. Any man, who thinks that he can keep this law; shall surely perish under its just condemnation for *“the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”*

If you took a poll of the majority of those who claim to believe the Bible to be the word of GOD, believers and unbelievers alike, you would find that most would confess that they think men ought to “keep” the “ten commandments”. Most would testify that they try to keep them and would believe that they are somewhat successful in the attempt. In doing so they would be found in the same condition that Paul was in before he was given eyes to see the depravity of his own nature and the complete weakness and inability of his flesh to measure up to that Holy law.

We often hear men say that the “ten commandments” are a “road map” of life, or a guideline to live one’s life by. This is a total misunderstanding of the holiness of the law, but more importantly a complete lack of knowledge of the sinful nature of men. The best “road map” ever printed will not do a man any good if he has no car in which to get to his destination and is blind and unable to read it clearly. Such is man’s condition. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”*

So what is the “purpose of the law”? Paul said it was *“added because of transgressions”*. We know that the “law of GOD” is greater than the law given to Moses. Man has never been without the “law of GOD”. The purpose of the “law” is to manifest sin. When a man who has spiritual life is told he must love the LORD with all of his heart and mind, he will fall upon his face and cry out for mercy, because he knows the task is too great and his heart far too wicked to even approach unto the throne of GOD let alone to love HIM without mixture of error. When the same man is told he must love his neighbor as himself he will immediately realize the impossibility of such a task, knowing all too well his own consuming love of his own self and way.

The purpose of the “law” is to shut the mouths of all who might think they are innocent. *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”* It is by this law that all of the world will be judged. The law serves another purpose unto them HE has loved from before the world’s foundation. Paul is pleased to describe to the Galatians the mercy of GOD, as HE is pleased to manifest the work of the SPIRIT in those objects of HIS grace. *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”* The purpose of the law is to teach HIS children their need of CHRIST. When a man is born again by the SPIRIT and renewed by the washing of regeneration, he can begin to see the absolute wickedness of his own heart and way, in contrast to the absolute holiness of the kingdom of GOD. Abandoning all hope of keeping the law, he is compelled to flee to CHRIST for HELP. *HE is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of HIS people.*

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