

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

When men reduce the “gospel” (so called) to a formula which can only be ultimately fulfilled by the “free will” of men, then they have to differentiate between those who have “permitted” the LORD to save them and those who have not. So a convenient phrase of having a “personal savior” was coined to describe gaining salvation, in much the same fashion as if a man purchased his own puppy from the pet store. The difference being that a man gains possession of the puppy by paying a sum of money whereas a man gets his own savior by deciding to let him come into his heart.

The notion that CHRIST JESUS has shed HIS precious blood in a futile attempt to save all men gives rise to the concept that salvation must be made complete by the decision of a man to be saved. Therefore in making the decision to be saved, he supposedly enables CHRIST to be his SAVIOR. This is actually a very blasphemous notion and flies in the face of the scriptures which declare HIM to be the SAVIOR of sinners and not the “offerer” of salvation. 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.”* *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”* *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”* CHRIST has never attempted to save anyone. HE has however accomplished completely the salvation of everyone for whom HE poured out HIS precious blood as a sin offering. If the blood of CHRIST is accepted in heaven as a perfect payment for sin, then that sin is of necessity forever canceled and forgotten. *“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”* Augustus Toplady wrote:

If thou hast my discharge procured, And freely in my room endured
The whole of wrath divine, Payment God cannot twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety's hand, And then again at mine.

Paul speaks of the “*mutual faith*” of the children of GOD. He never mentions a “personal faith” and most assuredly not a “personal savior”. HE clearly means a particular faith that is shared by all who are said to possess it. It is “*mutual faith*” because it has the exact same origin. Paul in writing to the Ephesians, says, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”* True faith has but one source, it is not the product of man's will nor does it spring from his ability or reason. Rather it is clearly a gift which is bestowed upon the objects of GOD's mercy and, being a gift, affords them no grounds upon which to boast; either of possessing it or having receiving it. Apart from this gift of faith, a man will remain in the darkness of unbelief. When given this gift he cannot do anything else but believe.

It is “*mutual faith*” because it has one OBJECT. That FAITH which saves the children of GOD is not concerned with degrees, levels, or kind, but rests solely on its OBJECT which is CHRIST JESUS the LORD and HIM crucified, risen, and ascended into the heavens where HE ever lives to make intercession for those who come unto GOD by HIM. Paul declared this sort of FAITH when he said, *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”* Faith will not save men, but seeing CHRIST as the OBJECT of faith is the evidence of the gift of FAITH.

It is “*mutual faith*” because it causes rejoicing in all of those who have fled to CHRIST for refuge and forms the very basis of true Christian fellowship. Religious men may fellowship with one another around many different doctrines, practices, and customs. Some glory in their ancient heritage, others in their miraculous signs, wonders, and prophecies; some in their baptisms and ordinations, or their adherence to holy days, law keeping, and Sabbaths, yet the true sons of GOD can only find a complete satisfaction in the clear declaration of CHRIST alone as the SUM of their salvation.

They identify with Paul who said, *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* The basis of their “fellowship” is the “gospel of the glory of the blessed GOD” While there are “gospels” abounding, yet there is only one which is true. There is ONE CHRIST and ONE SALVATION which is found in HIM. That's where the sons of GOD desire to be found and it is here alone that they can rejoice together and edify one another by “*mutual faith.*” There is ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, and ONE BAPTISM. CHRIST is ALL. HE is the SAVIOR of sinners.

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