

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

When I was a lad, being steeped in the traditions and morality of religion, the story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was often used to drive home the lesson of the benefits of clean living. There was nothing wrong with this lesson, per se, except that that it sums up about all I was taught about them. While their example of faithfulness and bravery was being set forth; I don’t recall ever being told the SOURCE of their faithfulness nor the STRENGTH in which they stood. Rather the emphasis was on what they did to make GOD have regard to them rather than on the ONE who favored them and then sustained them in the midst of their trials. Children are never too young, nor are adults ever too old, to be taught of the glories of an Absolute GOD who does all things according to HIS purpose and who will preserve those whom HE loves, with an everlasting love. An emphasis on the “faithfulness” of men, apart from a greater emphasis on the “GIVER of faith” and the SUSTAINER of the faithful, is a message designed to rob GOD of the glory due unto HIS great and mighty NAME.

Some would tell us that any kind of religion is better than none. This is a lie. The common denominator in all of the false religions upon the earth is their emphasis upon the free will of man and the notion that the efforts and devotion of men is what causes GOD to show favor upon them. The foundations of most religion is largely superstition. Many tell us they believe in the “power of prayer”, which is much like the heathen believed in their shamans with their enchantments, charms, and mysterious ways. Prayer is but a ritualized activity with most, which is used as one would a lucky rabbits foot or a four leaf clover. They believe that they shall be heard for their much praying and devotional exercises.

The majority of religions rely upon their “wise men” (often called clergymen, pastors, evangelists, bishops, elders, prophets, apostles; etc.) like Nebuchadnezzar waited upon his.. A goodly number of these witch doctors tour the world fleecing men of their money as they make merchandise of the “gospel”, and make their followers two-fold more the children of hell than themselves. There is hardly a place upon the earth that is not infected with this sort of superstition which either waits upon signs and wonders of a miraculous nature or seeks to impress them with carnal wisdom and psychological analysis, all the while entertaining them and teaching them that they hold the key to their own happiness and success.

Nebuchadnezzar had enough carnal wisdom to understand that if the Chaldean “wise men” could not discern the details of his dream without his telling them of it, then they surely would not be able to interpret it. Sadly, many among those who pursue religion in the present day do not even possess the same carnal discernment, but are gladly led by “interpreters” all too glad to play the game of religion with them so they can all be happy, prosperous and satisfied. The LORD raised up Daniel to be a faithful messenger unto Nebuchadnezzar. He was humbled before the LORD and recognized that apart from being given a revelation of these things from the LORD, he could never discover them by his own power. Thus he prayed, not because he superstitiously believed in the power of prayer, but rather because HE believed in the ONE who is the REVEALER of secrets. His trust was in the LORD not in his faithfulness, ability, or activity of praying. He readily testified that there are secrets which are known only unto the LORD and that men have no way of discovering these “mysteries” except that HE should reveal them.

It is bound in the very nature of man to consider that the blessings of GOD are bestowed “conditionally”, based upon their actions, prayers, and faithfulness. Yet the LORD, speaking through Isaiah, noted the superiority of HIS thought, which is manifested in HIS willingness and purpose to show HIS mercy and grant HIS blessings only according to HIS purpose, and not according to the deserving or non-deserving manner of men. All of the “secrets” which were thus hidden from the beginning are now made manifest in HIM whose testimony is the SPIRIT of PROPHECY. CHRIST is the FULFILLER and the FULFILLMENT of those things spoken by the prophets of old. What mystery would you discover which is not found in HIM?

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