

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

Paul writes to the Thessalonians, “recognizing” their “*election of GOD*”. Paul was taken up to that “third heaven” where he saw and heard things which are unlawful (i.e.; not proper) to be uttered. Yet, even then, he could not look upon that book which can only be opened and gazed upon by the LION of tribe of Judah nor could he read there those whose names are recorded by HIS eternal pen. So, when he writes of such, he is not sharing some secret information which he is privy to, but rather is making an observation wherein he perceives the peculiar work of the SPIRIT of GOD in the children of GOD, and in no others. *“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The election of the saints can more readily be observed by their brethren than it can be by themselves. This is a good thing, lest they should be lifted up with pride and a sense of security in something other than their HOPE in CHRIST alone. But the election of the saints is discernable by their brethren and serves as a great source of encouragement to each other. The saints are stirred up to FAITH by the mutual FAITH of one another, building one another up and bearing one another’s burdens. *“For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” “Who, when he (i.e.; Barnabas) came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.” (Acts 11:23) “For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”*

Paul “knew” the election of these Thessalonians because he “remembered” their “*work of FAITH*”. It could be opined that he had reference to their “good works”, but I believe it is more accurate to consider that he has reference to that “work of FAITH” which is wrought in them by HIM who works all things together for good to them who are the called according to HIS purpose. Does HE not “*work in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure?*” Is not FAITH the gift of GOD? *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained (i.e.; predestinated) that we should walk in them.”* Can any believe apart from this gift?

Paul “knew” their election because he saw their “*labor of love*”. Religion can produce all sorts and extents of “labor”. Yet only the SPIRIT of GOD can produce a “*labor of love*”. This is that labor that seeks no recognition or reward and is entered into solely for the praise of GOD. *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.” “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

Paul “knew” their election because he could see their “*patience of HOPE*”. The LORD is faithful to keep HIS children from falling. HE causes “patience” to have its perfect work in those whom HE loves and calls. We see this “patience” declared by Peter *“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”* “Come, humble sinner, in whose breast, A thousand thoughts revolve, Come, with your guilt and fear oppressed, And make this last resolve. Prostrate I’ll lie before His throne, And there my guilt confess, I’ll tell Him, I’m a wretch undone, Without His sovereign grace. Perhaps He will admit my plea, Perhaps will hear my prayer; But, if I perish, I will pray, And perish only there. I can but perish if I go; I am resolved to try; But if I stay away, I know I must forever die. But, if I die with mercy sought, When I the King have tried, This were to die (delightful thought!) As sinner never died.” May the LORD of electing grace make us to shine as lights in a dark world by the work of HIS SPIRIT in us. Do you call upon HIM?

*Thy free grace alone,”#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**