

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

Paul writes to Timothy with loving instruction and stern exhortation to recognize the glory and necessity of walking in obedience to the precepts of CHRIST in the midst of the local assembly where he presently abides. *“That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God”*. He does so by reminding him of the *“mystery of Godliness”*, which he is called to declare in the midst of the gathering of GOD’s people. Declaring the “TRUTH as it is in JESUS” is not an option for those who are sent with HIS message. To preach any other message is to prove oneself to be a false prophet, and to embrace any message other than that which centers in the all sufficiency of CHRIST as PRIEST and KING is to deny the very FOUNDATION upon which the “church” of the LORD JESUS CHRIST firmly rests.

CHRIST will build HIS church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Many have mistakenly thought that the ROCK upon which CHRIST would build HIS church was Peter. Yet Peter is not the ROCK, but merely a “stone” or “pebble” in the construction of the LORD’s church. *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.”*

The local church does not exist for the purpose of preaching and teaching the WORD. But a local assembly cannot be rightly called “the church” where there is an absence of that exercise. Sound doctrine which exalts only CHRIST is the very basis upon which it must stand. No member of that body is more important than another and CHRIST is the only HEAD. The love of the brethren for CHRIST and one another is the tie that binds a true assembly of JESUS CHRIST together. *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” “But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”* A gathered assembly with the absence of that love cannot be a manifestation of the “church” of CHRIST regardless of what else it may practice, its past history, or its dusty “Confessions of Faith”. *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”* Paul describes the “local church” as the “house of GOD”. Yet *“the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands.”* We can be certain that Paul had no reference to any structure constructed by mortal men nor even in some organization which they have put together in the vain attempt at perpetuating the same. Rather this “house” is merely a reference to the “assembly” itself. It is that place where the LORD is. *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*

Then he describes this “edifice” as *“the pillar and ground of the truth.”* Since this is true, we must recognize the folly of those who profess to follow CHRIST who have a complete disregard to the gathering together of the saints. There are many who make a profession of following CHRIST who see this assembly as an inconvenience in their busy lives and are not compelled to seek out this fellowship. That is quite an odd combination since John said, *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”* A man cannot be walking in the TRUTH if he has no regard for the assembly of the saints. Such a man cannot manifest a great esteem for the brethren of CHRIST if he has no desire to minister to them by his presence, fellowship, and encouragement. Some are indeed providentially hindered from such gatherings. Yet any man who is capable of assembling with the LORD’s people and chooses not to, is completely disobedient to the heavenly vision. *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.”* “How sweet, how heavenly is the sight, When those that love the Lord, In one another’s peace delight, And so fulfil his word! When each can feel his brother’s sigh, And with him bear a part; When sorrow flows from eye to eye, And joy from heart to heart. When free from envy, scorn, and pride, Our wishes all above, Each can his brother’s failings hide, And show a brother’s love. When love in one delightful stream Through every bosom flows; When union sweet and dear esteem, In every action glows! Love is the golden chain that binds The happy souls above; And he’s an heir of heaven that finds His bosom glow with love.” Do you love the brethren?

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