

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

This “*city of David*” or the stronghold of Zion, is also called Bethlehem (which means “house of bread”) where we read that David, when but a lad, fed his “father’s sheep”. Of course the most notable event that occurred in Bethlehem is found in Luke’s gospel, “*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*”

Zion is a symbol and type of the Kingdom of GOD which has its manifestation in the church of GOD, and we find it prominently used in this fashion throughout the word of GOD “*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.*” “*Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*” “*Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.*” “*For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.*” “*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.*”

While the manifestation of Zion in the earth is the church which CHRIST came to establish; the nature and essence of Zion is a spiritual kingdom which cannot be “inherited” by flesh and blood. The inhabitants of Zion are not in any wise able to see or understand their “inheritance” apart from a birth into that Kingdom, even as a man cannot know the place of his natural nativity apart from being physically and naturally born and raised there.

Someone has said that most men spend the first half of their life trying to get away from the place they were born and raised, and the last half trying to get back to it. There are many clichés which are thus appropriate, “There is no place like home”, “Home is where the heart is.”, “Home sweet home”, just to name a few. That men have a link to the place of their nativity goes without saying.

This is especially illustrated for us as we consider that each of those who has an inheritance in the kingdom of GOD must also have their “birth” there. It is impossible for a man to claim natural citizenship in a land in which he had no natural birth and in the same fashion it is impossible that a man should consider himself to be a part of this spiritual kingdom who has not been born there. This is exactly what the LORD JESUS told Nicodemus, “*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*” Apart from a spiritual birth which is “from above” a man has no reason to hope in his inclusion in this kingdom which is not of this world, nor which can be seen by the natural eye.

A man cannot choose the place or the time of his natural birth. Neither can a man “choose” to be born into this spiritual kingdom, nor does he have any power or influence as to “if or when” it may occur. “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” Notice that their “belief” is a result of their birth and not vice versa.

One of the gravest of errors that is found in modern, (so called) gospel preaching is the declaration that natural men can choose to become heirs of a heavenly kingdom by a simple exercise of their free will. It would be easier for a man to re-enter his mother’s womb and be re-born in a natural birth than it would be for a profane and sinful man to become a spiritual man by choosing to do so. The natural man despises the truth of GOD and will not seek HIM, nor can he in any wise receive spiritual knowledge by his own effort nor can mortal flesh be made spiritual.

The Psalmist said; “*The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.*” We might paraphrase that to read “When the LORD appears to number HIS own and receive HIS purchased possession, HE will recognize those whose names HE has written in the LAMB’s book of life, as those who are born into that kingdom by the power of HIS SPIRIT.” They are not strangers to HIM since HE has loved them from before the foundation of the world and they are inheritors of that which HE has prepared for them as those “born out of due time”.

This is the same Kingdom which the LORD JESUS CHRIST was “born into” though HE was the possessor of it from Eternity. HIS children have a possession in it because they have been hidden in HIM from the beginning and they share in HIS birthright as heirs and joint heirs with CHRIST according to the riches of HIS grace. Upon what dear friend does your hope rest? Is it upon the sinking sand of your own free will or upon the power of HIM who raises dead sinners to life? JESUS CHRIST is the HOPE of all who are “born again” by HIS power. What is your hope?

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