

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

Peter addresses his second epistle “to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” That “faith” which they are said to have obtained (through no effort or ability of their own) is the gift of GOD, and is completely based on that which CHRIST JESUS the LORD has performed in their behalf. HE is the OBJECT of that faith. Even as HE said *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”* HE is a fixed point and it is in HIM that those, who are called, have believed.

The “faith” which they are given arises out of the same SOURCE and purpose that their election unto eternal life does. We see this illustrated in the book of Acts as the LORD opened the ears of the Gentiles to hear the message of Paul and Barnabas. *“And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”* Predestination to life resulted in faith. This was not a process but rather the fulfillment of the purpose of GOD in calling those whom HE had chosen before the foundation of the world.

The LORD reveals those who are HIS by the manifestation of faith. The salvation of the sons of GOD is positionally fixed, even as the LORD declared. *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* Their number cannot be increased or diminished by any effort or failure of men. The man who is convinced that he is a helpless sinner who is worthy of nothing but to be cast into the pit of destruction will find solace in knowing that his HOPE of salvation rests alone in the hands of HIM who says, *“Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”* HE is that ONE who has not simply decreed the salvation of HIS people but who has trod the winepress of GOD’s wrath in their behalf and has obtained eternal redemption for them by the shedding of HIS blood.

So the faith which is brought to the sons of GOD according to HIS purpose is given to them as a means of comfort. Their hearing and believing is the work of HIM who gives HIS people all things richly to enjoy. Peter goes on to say; *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord”* This is multiplied to them on the basis of what HE has done for them. HE is the DOOR “through” which these blessings come to the sons of GOD. They are not comforted “through” any contemplation of what they are able to perform for HIM, but rather, their manifold blessings, multiplied by the thousands, arise to them as they “know” what HE has provided for them. *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Again Peter says *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”* Here he is speaking of the avenue or means whereby this salvation is enjoyed by them. The scripture speaks of the salvation of GOD’s children being decreed by HIM from the foundation of the world. This redemption was accomplished by the offering up of the body and blood of JESUS CHRIST once and for all. Thus HE has forever fixed and supplied the everlasting salvation of all of those whom HE hid in the bosom of CHRIST. This is indeed a glorious salvation which is fixed in eternity but is now manifested in the present time “through” the unfolding of the riches of HIS grace by the continual operation of the HOLY GHOST in the sons of GOD, causing them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. All of the works of the children of men are tainted with sin. Even as Isaiah said, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”*

Yet HE who works in the sons of GOD does sanctify them by giving to them all things pertaining to life and godliness as HE leads them into all truth by causing them to desire “truth and holiness” in the inward parts. Paul declared this in the book of Romans, saying *“For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:”* Though they are still beset by their sinful flesh, yet HE does cause a warfare to develop within them wherein HE makes manifest their righteousness through their knowledge of HIM who has called them to *“follow in HIS steps.”*

This is a battle which often leaves them bloody and nigh unto death, yet because of HIS constant and faithful supply, they cannot be overcome. *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”*

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