

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

GOD who, alone, is eternal and inhabits eternity is in no wise bounded by time, since HE is the CREATOR of time and time only serves HIS purpose as a realm in which HIS creation exists. Yet time is very real to that creation; and those who are created cannot conceive of any realm which is not described in terms of the passing of time. Men often make attempts to speak of eternity past and eternity to come but the use of those phrases are but a proof of the fact that man cannot describe eternity since it has no past or future but simply is the abode of GOD to which no man can approach.

We know that GOD changes not, nor are HIS decrees altered from one moment to the next. That which GOD has purposed, ordained, and appointed cannot be changed nor is it in any wise contingent upon any action or will of any of HIS creation, but rather the actions and wills of HIS creation are contingent upon HIS purpose.

These truths fly in the very face of man’s consideration of his own importance and produce profound anger in those who worship the so-called “free will” of men. Yet to those whom the LORD teaches, these words are most comforting. Even as Peter says *“If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.”* There is no greater source of peace to the sons of GOD than the revelation of JESUS CHRIST as the CHIEF CORNERSTONE. JESUS CHRIST is that STONE of stumbling to those who believe not, even as surely as HE is that ELECT and PRECIOUS STONE to those who believe. Just as surely as those who believe were “chosen” and “ordained” unto eternal life and given the gift of faith, those who stumble at this ROCK of offense were appointed to that stumbling as well. Who is sufficient for these things and wherein can any boast be made by the sons of men? *“For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive?”* This is the very venue in which the grace of GOD is displayed. It is most glorious to those who have tasted of it, and reprehensible to those who have not.

Peter speaks of those who are now manifest as the people of GOD who had at one “time” not obtained mercy but yet now have obtained it. Yet the scripture is quite clear that those who were appointed as vessels of mercy were chosen in CHRIST before the world’s foundation and created as the sons of GOD. Paul says, *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* GOD does demonstrate that those whom HE has appointed unto salvation are in and of themselves worthy of death, and differ from those who are appointed unto wrath, only in the fact that HE has shown mercy to them.

When the LORD said, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* This was a startling message to Nicodemus; primarily because he, being a Jew, had the notion that one was an heir of the kingdom by natural birth, being a son of Abraham. Yet the LORD laid the axe to the root of his tree even as HE did the same to that of the Samaritan woman. Only the work of GOD in a man by the operation of HIS SPIRIT can cause a man to live and see the kingdom of GOD. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

Jew and Gentile alike are born strangers and enemies of GOD, manifest by wicked works and a disobedient spirit. *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”* Left to themselves men will imagine a vain thing and suppose that they have both the power and ability to choose the way of GOD as simply as they choose what color shirt to put on. They will suppose that the sincerity of their religion and their “good deeds” will surely influence HIM for their benefit. They will imagine that GOD will wink at their sin and in HIS magnanimity will surely not destroy them. Yet it is only by the granting of mercy that any man is not destroyed. It is this “mercy”, which the sons of GOD have *“now”* obtained that has brought them to despair and which has now caused them to cry out to the SAVIOR of sinners. They *“now”* know that they have obtained mercy according to the good pleasure of HIS will and not their own. *“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* Have you tasted of the mercy of GOD?