

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

There is no such thing ever spoken of in the scripture record as an "accident". Everything that occurs in the heavens and the earth takes place according to the direct will and purpose of the GOD who rules in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the Earth. HE is the first cause of all events and nothing transpires that is not directed by HIS hand. *"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD."* The outcome of every hand of poker and every set of dice ever thrown has been determined by HIM who knows the end from the beginning. Each grain of sand, stirred up by the crashing of a wave at the beach, moves in as much a predetermined orbit as do the planets in their paths about the Sun. HE who numbers the hairs on our heads and clothes the lilies of the field in bright array has left nothing to chance, whether it be the fall of the tiniest sparrow from the sky or the preparation of a fish to swallow HIS prophet. How much more can we who have been brought out of darkness and into HIS glorious light, rejoice that HE, who has loved us with an everlasting love, shall direct our every step and bring us to HIS desired end. We are in HIS hands and most blessed.

I saw a marquee the other day in front of a (supposed) church building which said "Satan has a plot but GOD has a plan". The intentions and designs of Satan should never be discussed in the same breath as the unfolding of GOD's purpose in the earth as if there was some rivalry between the two. Satan can do nothing that GOD does not directly allow and mark out for him to do. He is but a pawn in the hand of the LORD, like a dog on a leash or a trained seal balancing a ball on his nose. One only has to look to listen to Joseph's testimony to his brothers concerning the purpose of GOD in using their wickedness of selling him into bondage for their own preservation. *"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."* The wrath and wickedness of man shall be used for HIS glory and shall in no wise thwart any of HIS purpose. Rather, HE shall use it to accomplish the very end for which it is designed.

Both the devastation and preservation which often befalls the sons of GOD are ordained in HIS hand for their good. The hymn-writer of old said "HIS purposes shall ripen fast unfolding every hour, the bud may have a bitter taste but sweet will be the flower." One thing is certain, and that is that the LORD uses trials to teach HIS children a variety of lessons. Only the "stiffnecked and uncircumcised" ignore such instruction. O that HE might give us grace that we might be "exercised" by these lessons. O for grace to have a tender heart that is easily taught and fashioned in HIS wise and loving dealings with us.

GOD will bring HIS sons into conformity with CHRIST both positionally as HE has demonstrated by the imputation of CHRIST's righteousness to them at the cross and experientially as HE works in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. HE will chasten those whom HE loves continually. HE will not leave them to their own devices lest they destroy themselves. HE will to save them in time as surely as HE does in eternity and will not let HIS children go on without correction. Sometimes this chastening takes on a very painful character but it is no less a demonstration of HIS mercy to us when heartache and sorrow overwhelm us than when we bask in the sunshine of the brightest day. *"Great is thy faithfulness."* Some have characterized the chastening of the LORD as though it is a threat rather than a promise. Surely the LORD will correct the lifestyle of a wayward son or daughter but HIS chastening is most often designed as a hedge rather than a hammer. The apostle Paul was well acquainted with such a hedge in the "thorn" which was given to him to prevent his being lifted up with pride. The LORD is quite willing and able to hedge about HIS garden both for its protection and for its strength. It is why HE brings HIS people low and unable to rely on the arm of the flesh so that they are reminded from whence their blessings come and WHO is the source of their strength. *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

Do you rest in the sovereign will of the FATHER? Is this not what the LORD taught us to pray when HE said, *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."* *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

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