

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

To say that we live in a day when there is a proliferation of what many call "preaching the gospel" is quite an understatement. Thousands flock to churches of all types each week and there is no lack of avid and even rabid devotees of this or that doctrinal position. By and large all so called "Christian" churches preach in some measure about the crucifixion of JESUS CHRIST. Yet the "preaching of the cross" which Paul has reference to would be offensive in just about every one of them. What is it that is so offensive?

The problem that religious men have is that they will not bow down and worship the ONE who rules the heavens and the earth. The natural man does not totally reject the idea that there is a GOD. After all, from time to time he may need HIM to get him out of jam. But every man by nature rises up against the true and living GOD who shows mercy to whom HE will show mercy and hardens whom HE will. The fool has said in his heart that there is no GOD over me. Man in his natural state is an idolator, that is one who forms and fashions god according to his own ideas and desires. Men will worship a god of their own making and choosing but they will balk and resist the ONE who does according to HIS will in army of heaven and in the earth. They love a god with limitations but will continue in rebellion against the ONE who does whatsoever HE hath pleased. Men will worship a god who needs them but hate the thought that there is a GOD who has need of nothing and no one and is in no way dependent on anything a man can do or offer unto HIM.

I have heard some say that GOD needs for men to worship HIM. Such balderdash ought never to be spoken by any puny mortal. GOD stands in need of nothing. Had HE never created men, HE would still be as full of glory as HE is by HIS very person and nature. The natural man hates the thought of an absolute sovereign, predestinating GOD and will without exception rise up against HIM unless HE is pleased to subdue his will and open his eyes to behold HIS glory. So men despise the cross because they hate the ONE who hung there. Any man who loves the LORD JESUS CHRIST will bow down and worship HIM as an absolute KING.

The cross is also offensive to the natural man because of its exclusivity. Men are not saved nor "perfected" by anything else. All of man's salvation is totally dependent on the transaction made at the cross of JESUS CHRIST. Some pay lip service to believing that JESUS "paid it all" but then they add on further requirements and acts of obedience in order for men to be perfected or to take advantage of what HE attempted to do for them. Some say a man must believe it in order to complete the transaction which HE started. Others say that HE settled their sin debt at the cross but that now it is also necessary for men to "keep the law" in order to be pleasing in the LORD's sight. There is no end to the duties and requirements which man's religiosity seeks to lay upon the backs of the freeborn sons of GOD. Such Judaizers cannot stand the thought that sinners are set free from the law of sin and death by the imputed righteousness of JESUS CHRIST which has been forever laid to the account of HIS elect, by the satisfaction of the law which HE settled on the cross of Calvary. There is nothing left for men to do, HE has done it all at the cross. The test of whether or not the gospel of the cross of CHRIST is preached is whether or not that message asks or requires men to do something in order for it to be effectual.

The true preaching of the cross is offensive to the natural religious man because of the specific nature of what the LORD JESUS actually accomplished in HIS death on Calvary's tree. The LORD accomplished exactly what HE set out to do exactly for the people HE intended to do it for. I have never known of anyone to get angry and combative when men preach that JESUS died for every one of the human race in order to give each one an equal opportunity and chance to be saved according to their own free choice in the matter. But I have witnessed with my own eyes the angry reactions of religious men whenever the particular redemption of GOD's elect is set forth. As long as men feel that GOD is giving everybody a fair chance and a square deal they seem to be happy. The salvation procured by CHRIST is not a transaction that can be settled by the free will and choice of men. The preaching of the cross is a clear presentation of the finished work of JESUS CHRIST for HIS elect children which were given to HIM before the foundation of the world. It is a clear proclamation that HE has purchased the eternal redemption of all of HIS elect and that HE shall present every one of them faultless before HIS FATHER's throne. They are justified by HIS blood and they shall never perish because HE gives unto them eternal life.

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