

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

Almost any person you meet has some opinion about who he thinks god is and what he is like. There are relatively few people in the earth who deny the very existence of GOD.

Men think they can find GOD. Man's natural hunger for religion bears this out. It is quite common for men to assume that they can discover GOD in the same way they can discover anything else. But the scriptures say, *"Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Savior."* HE is the ONE *"Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting."* Unless the LORD is pleased to reveal HIMSELF to men they cannot see HIM as HE is, nor can they know HIS way. The Pharisees thought that they could understand and know the way of GOD by studying the Bible, but the LORD said, *"Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."* Men will gladly embrace the god of their imagination but unless the LORD of GLORY is pleased to reveal HIMSELF men will perish in their ignorance and rebellion. So instead of men finding GOD, they need for HIM to find them.

Men think that GOD is in partial control of the world. The natural theology of men requires them to believe that GOD intervenes in the affairs of the world from time to time but largely lets it run upon a natural course over which HE can exercise some control as long as man prays and asks HIM to. Yet HE testifies, *"I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things."* *"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"* Nothing transpires in the universe which is not according to HIS predestinated purpose.

Men think that GOD will have respect unto their good deeds. However the scripture says, *"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* GOD only has respect unto perfect righteousness, which can be found in JESUS CHRIST alone. *"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."* Apart from the righteousness which HE has been pleased to impute to us, we are still miserable wretches without one shred of righteousness before GOD. HE is our righteousness in every respect.

Men think that GOD has respect unto their free will. The man who thinks he can choose to follow GOD whenever he gets ready is ignorant of his own wicked heart. Apart from GOD in sovereign mercy breaking down the rebellious heart of man and changing his will, that man will continue to choose sin and take delight in it. Man's will is not free but is in bondage to sin and darkness. Thank GOD that HE conquers the will of HIS elect.

Men think that GOD must show mercy to all men on the same basis. It is quite common to hear preaching which purports that the gospel is "offered" to all men. Yet the scripture indicates that mercy is the sovereign prerogative of GOD. *"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy."* When one dares to preach on the doctrine of GOD's unconditional election he can be sure that man's sinful nature will cause him to rebel against it. Rather than looking at the gospel as an "offer" of grace, it is more accurate to describe the gospel as GOD's operation of grace wherein HE is calling unworthy sinners to HIMSELF. HE does not leave this calling to chance rather, HE applies it HIMSELF. *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."* *"Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."*

Men think the gospel is for everybody. The gospel is a message for sinners. They are the only ones who will find any comfort in its glorious message. The righteous man doesn't need it. The religious man finds it beneath him. When a man has been brought by the grace of GOD to see himself as the old publican who would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote upon his breast saying, *"GOD be merciful to me a sinner"* then and only then will the gospel appear to him as the very savor of life. *"Thy free grace alone,"*#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**