

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

How can the saints of GOD be called “righteous” when we can clearly see that they are sinners just like the rest of mankind?

First, we can say that they are “*righteous*” by the eternal decree of the Sovereign of the Universe who does all things well and according to HIS immutable purpose. To be “righteous” is to be perfectly acceptable unto HIM as a Holy GOD. HE approved HIS people well because HE chose them in CHRIST. Their union to CHRIST is from the beginning and not a condition which they have acquired by human endeavor. Thus, they are accepted in the BELOVED and are the “righteous” which CHRIST came into the world to redeem insofar as they are seen in HIM.

Secondly, we can say that they are “righteous” in the sight of the law, according to the justice of GOD. This is the point that Paul clearly makes when he says, “*To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*” He is careful to set this matter in the context of “*HIS righteousness*”, in order to show that the saints are made “righteous” in the sight of the very law which HE ordained unto condemnation. HE did not sidestep the law (though HE most certainly could have if it had pleased HIM) but rather sent HIS only begotten SON into the world to satisfy every jot and tittle of the law and to pay every penalty which the law of sin and death demanded, from HIS children. HE subjected them unto vanity according to HIS purpose and HE would demonstrate both HIS mercy and HIS justice in rescuing them from that same curse.

By CHRIST’s obedience and death HE has forever set them free from any and all claims which the Holy Law could mandate, since HE has imputed their sin unto HIMSELF and HIS righteousness to them. Thus, as they stand before the judgement bar of GOD where only the claims of the law shall be heard, they are adjudicated as a righteous people, just and holy, without sin of any kind. HE is their MEDIATOR and ADVOCATE.

Thirdly they are considered as “*righteous*” because they are given “*faith*” to believe the promises of GOD which are made manifest in JESUS CHRIST. “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” The “righteous” shall indeed believe, because they are ordained unto eternal life even as Luke records, “*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.*” Is this not what Paul said to the Romans: “*Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.*” HE is the “AUTHOR and FINISHER of our FAITH.” For this Paul was willing to cast off all else, “*And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*”

Lastly, (and certainly not least) the saints are made “righteous”, as HE applies the certainty of the finished work of CHRIST to the conscience of those who believe. The sacrifices demanded by the law could never satisfy the conscience of those who were exercised by the law, because these continual sacrifices served to remind them of their ongoing sin. The purpose of the preaching of the gospel is to bring glad tidings, to those who are mourning in Zion, that CHRIST has completed their salvation. “*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*”

“*Therefore, the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.*” HE is indeed the SALVATION of the righteous who are so because of HIM. HE has “*brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*” This is a great source of blessing and comfort to the sons of GOD who are made to see and feel their own “unrighteousness” which is in them by nature. “*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.*” Is CHRIST your RIGHTEOUSNESS?

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