

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Most everyone is familiar with the children's story about "Snow White". One of the characters has a mirror which she looks into every day, asking it who the fairest in the land is. Of course the mirror answers that she is the most beautiful one in all of the land, until one day, to her surprise and horror, the mirror replies that there is one who is fairer than she. She can no longer take any delight in beholding her image in that mirror until she has destroyed "Snow White".

We can see, in the actions (and reactions) of the evil queen, an illustration of the carnal man who in his natural religiosity looks at the reflection of himself in the mirror of his own self-righteousness and finds many things which are pleasing to him. His base desire is to compare himself to others as a measure and standard of his righteousness and acceptance with the LORD.

Rather than mourning his imperfections, he makes excuses for them and expects that he can make improvements which will ultimately negate his shortcomings. While natural religion requires that he admit to some faults yet he considers that his faults are no worse than many and in many cases far fewer than great numbers of others.

His ultimate hatred of the LORD's STANDARD of righteousness is demonstrated as he, by nature, despises the notion that the LORD requires absolute perfection. Surely, he reasons, his righteousness must count for something and be somewhat acceptable in the LORD's sight, if for no other reason than simply that he is a human, which he imagines is a most noble creature endowed with natural goodness.

The LORD used the Jews (especially the Sadducees, and Pharisees) to manifest the natural hatred of mankind for that ONE whom HE has sent into the world as a perfect Man. In the beginning of HIS earthly ministry many of these leaders sought HIM out and marveled at HIS wisdom. Yet soon, they perceived HIS unassailable character to be a real threat to their power. When it was revealed unto them, how far short of CHRIST's perfections they came, they hated HIM and set about to destroy HIM, according to the ordained purpose of GOD. Natural men are content with their righteousness relative to others,

Paul says that the children of GOD with "open face", now can plainly see that all of their righteousness is found in CHRIST. This is the "liberty" which is given to them which does not come as a "result" of their efforts or the fulfillment of certain duties and requirements, but is given to them according to the promise which is discovered in the gospel.

It is commonly received among the multitudes of those that preach a mixture of law and grace that men must endeavor to change their own lives in one fashion or another. They make the blessings which come to the sons of GOD to be dependent upon their obedience and acts of "faith". This is obviously manifested in the message of the "health and wealth" preachers but is more subtly taught by those who would opine that the "law" is the believers "rule of life".

The sons of GOD must look to HIM who fulfilled the law in its jot and tittle and has now rendered them by that same law to be perfectly just before HIM and completely accepted in the BELOVED. The law and grace "mixers" say they believe this to be true, but that such must not be "overemphasized" or that we must not ignore "man's responsibility" lest we encourage men to sin.

How foolish such a notion is. Paul addresses this very argument. *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* There is only one thing that can make the sons of GOD hate sin and desire righteousness in their inward parts, and that one thing is the "free grace of GOD." The work of the SPIRIT in the sons of GOD leads them to liberty, and not bondage.

Thus the only way that the sons of GOD are "encouraged" to walk in the freedom which CHRIST has given them, is as they are enabled to "behold HIS image" in that mirror, for indeed the glory of GOD surrounds that view and they are "changed" thereby. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*

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