

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Surely the ways of the LORD are marvelous and who is sufficient to be HIS counselor or to know HIS purpose and workings in the earth. "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*" This is nowhere demonstrated any more clearly than in HIS determined purpose to bring the truth of HIS word to men through the instrumentality of preaching by fallible men. HE had the whole pantheon of elect angels at HIS disposal which HE could have sent into the world, declaring HIS word, without any mixture of error or weakness. Yet it pleased HIM to raise up fallen creatures and endue them with power to declare the unsearchable riches of CHRIST. No man is, of himself, fit for this task nor do any possess the natural ability to perform it according to HIS grand design. Yet HE is pleased to use those whom HE calls to deliver HIS truth in no uncertain terms and to unapologetically declare the NAME of CHRIST in the earth.

Often the terms preaching and teaching are used interchangeably in the minds of men, yet there is indeed a difference between the functions of both as we see set forth in the scriptures. The LORD JESUS is of course the GREAT PREACHER and TEACHER who is the model of all of those who would follow in HIS steps. The word which is translated as "teaching" means literally to "learn", which of course is related to instruction in righteousness. One must be familiar with the scriptures in order to be a faithful teacher since such involves setting forth the doctrines that are taught there. Even as we see Paul's exhortation to Timothy, "*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" Paul speaks of this same function to Timothy as he encourages him to instruct the saints. "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*" For the LORD shall equip and raise up men to perform this task of the instruction of the saints in every age.

Many have made the mistake of thinking that it is possible to "instruct" men to enter the kingdom of GOD, or that by human reason and carnal repetitions of doctrine that they can enhance the understanding of those whom they would instruct. This was the error of the Jews who relied upon their traditions and learning. Unless the LORD is pleased to apply this instruction to the heart, giving a man a love for it, such teaching is in vain, regardless of its depth and breadth.

This "teaching" of the word of GOD is only profitable for those who have been given eyes to see and ears to hear. While any man can be "instructed"; only those who have been born again can "see the kingdom of GOD". It is foolish for a man to rely upon mere doctrine, regardless of the lips which may speak that instruction.

Preaching on the other hand is quite a different endeavor even though there is some overlap between the function of teaching and that of "preaching." Whereas teaching is primarily concerned with "instruction", "preaching" is a proclamation or declaration of the Kingdom of GOD, primarily in the exaltation of our REDEEMER KING. Preaching is not primarily concerned with the breadth of Bible doctrine but rather the heralding of the work of CHRIST and recounting HIS triumphs, primarily in that redemptive work which HE accomplished by HIS death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Whereas "teaching" is concerned with a myriad of doctrines and practices related to the life of the saints, preaching is solely concerned with declaring "*JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified.*" It is impossible to "preach" the gospel of the Kingdom apart from that message.

Preaching is a mysterious exercise and has nothing at all to do with eloquence or the intellectual prowess and study of the man whom the LORD is pleased to send. HE is able to raise up the stones of the earth to bring praise to HIS NAME, and HE often does. "*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" May CHRIST alone be exalted.

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