

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

The apostles of CHRIST occupy a particular and singular station in the purpose of GOD. HE chose thirteen men to occupy that office. One of them was a deceiver from the beginning. He was created by the LORD to fulfill the role of betrayer in order that the LORD might bring to pass HIS own arrest and ultimate condemnation by men. Judas gladly fulfilled that purpose for which he was created; and, ultimately, according to his nature and conduct reaped the rewards of his own wickedness, not the least of which was natural remorse for his own error for which he found no remedy, taking his own life and experiencing the destruction of his body and soul in hell.

Peter and the other apostles thought to replace Judas by the drawing of lots, as they named Matthias to take his office. I am sure that Matthias was a good and faithful man but this office could not be filled by one selected and installed by men. Those who would be the apostles of the LORD must be personally chosen and given the gift and calling of an apostle by the LORD alone. Thus we read of Saul of Tarsus on his way to Damascus with just such an appointment.

Those who were the apostles of the LORD were not only particularly chosen by HIM but they were directly taught by HIM as well. The original twelve companied with the LORD during HIS earthly ministry being daily instructed by HIM both by word and in deed. Paul was carried away to the wilderness shortly after his calling and conversion, where he was instructed by the LORD without the aid of men. Then “after three years” he went up to Jerusalem.

Another common trait of the apostles, was that they were eyewitnesses of the risen CHRIST and saw HIM as HE ascended up into glory. Paul testified *“He was seen of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”* Paul was not present on those days when CHRIST arose from the tomb and ascended into the heavens, yet HE tells us that he was “caught up to the third heaven” where he did indeed behold HIM who sits upon the throne. He uses this as a means whereby to prove his apostleship to the Corinthians. *“Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?”*

Those things which were given to the apostles form the very bedrock of the gospel which was at the first taught by the Old Testament prophets who understood that the things which they prophesied were for a time in the distant future and for a people who were yet to be born. While these prophets of old could only see GOD’s purpose very dimly, the apostles were given a front row seat to the unfolding of that purpose in full display as they beheld CHRIST JESUS the LORD, not simply as another teacher sent from GOD but rather the very LIGHT of the world who dwelt among men in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin.

These apostles preached the gospel of the glory of the blessed GOD not simply as one would teach men some doctrinal facts, but they declared it with a passion which can only be bestowed by the HOLY GHOST sent down from heaven. They were given to know that HE is the Incarnate GOD, who thought it not robbery to be equal with GOD, even declaring to them that the man who has seen HIM has seen the FATHER. HE is the only manifestation of GOD that men can be given even a glimpse of. John testified; *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

HE is pleased, now to reveal HIMSELF fully through the foundational ministry of the apostles who declared that HE is the ONE MEDIATOR between GOD and man. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.” Thus it is in HIM alone that the sons of GOD have fellowship with GOD and with one another. It is here in the testimony of the apostles concerning the PERSON and work of CHRIST that we, as those to whom they were sent, find a basis upon which the common faith of the household of GOD rests. Truly our “fellowship” with one another has no other foundation nor is there any other place of camaraderie for the children of GOD, except in JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified. *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?”*

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