

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

The Pharisee’s were great students of the scriptures. Many of them carried about portions of the scriptures upon their bodies wherever they went. Yet the LORD said they were farther from the Kingdom of GOD than the wicked and immoral “publicans and harlots”. Some quote Paul’s exhortation to Timothy, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” in an attempt to encourage men to read it and peruse its pages diligently. They will often tell us that the LORD is impressed when men apply themselves to such “study” and by doing so they can rejoice in the knowledge that they obtain thereby, even gaining “discernment” by the process. We would certainly never discourage men from reading and “studying” the scriptures, but this particular verse is not about that sort of “study”. Rather the word “study” means to give diligence to and seen in the working out of that salvation which the LORD has worked in. A man cannot become “approved” by the operation of his flesh in any endeavor. Rather those that are “approved unto GOD” demonstrate that fact as they are given an understanding of the TRUTH which is found in the word of GOD. This is a fulfillment of that which the LORD promised when HE said, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

CHRIST identified HIMSELF as “the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Thus, we can have no doubt that when the scriptures speak of the WORD of TRUTH, it is always pointing to CHRIST who is the TRUTH. We are certain that the Bible is absolutely true, however, it is not in itself, “the word of truth.” Neither is that which is spoken by preachers and teachers, however accurately set forth, “the word of truth.” Only the operation of the SPIRIT of GOD can cause men to “hear” the WORD of TRUTH. On the day of Pentecost the LORD miraculously caused men to “hear” the word of GOD. “Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.” “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

It is impossible that a man can “hear” the gospel, without the operation of the “word of truth” upon his mind preceding such “preaching”. We do not wish to minimize the glorious blessing that is brought to the sons of men through the “preaching” or declaration of the gospel of the glory of the blessed GOD. Yet we would want to put that “preaching” in its proper context as that which is sent by the LORD to those who have been enabled to “hear”. Saul of Tarsus, “heard” the “WORD of TRUTH” on the road to Damascus yet no mere mortal preached to him. “And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” We don’t suppose that every individual who was under the sound of Peter’s voice had the SPIRIT to fall upon them, “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.” Rather those who “heard” the “WORD of TRUTH” are meant. Faith is applied through “hearing” rather than preaching. The “WORD of TRUTH” must be “rightly divided”. CHRIST is the WORD of TRUTH. Regardless of how much of the scriptures a man might know and/or teach, if CHRIST JESUS and HIM crucified is not discovered and proclaimed, then the WORD of TRUTH is not “rightly divided.” The Pharisees devotedly studied the Bible, but they could not see CHRIST therein, thus were bereft of the WORD of TRUTH.

The “WORD of TRUTH” which is the POWER of GOD and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS are inseparably linked. “By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.” Wherever you find the WORD of TRUTH, you will see a demonstration of the power of GOD unto SALVATION. Where you find the WORD of TRUTH you will also discover a people who claim no RIGHTEOUSNESS but HIS. “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” The sons of GOD are born again by the WORD of TRUTH. John says the same thing, “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Truly this is that WIND which blows where it determines, causing men to hear the glorious good news which brings LIFE and IMMORTALITY to light. Do you love the WORD of TRUTH?

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