

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Some suppose that the book of James is a modifier of the truth that the salvation of GOD's people is solely and completely according to the gift of grace by a Sovereign GOD. Those who love to proclaim the "free will" of men (as though it was some sovereign power) often turn there to prove that salvation is as much about the works of the creature as it is about the grace of GOD.

If one assumes the notion that GOD has made HIS will subservient to the will of man, then he is predisposed to view the salvation of the LORD's people as a cooperative effort with GOD providing a "gift" and man making a decision to receive it and thus earning favor in the sight of GOD by being obedient to various commands and duties. This concept is rooted in the very nature of man and is proof of the "law" written in the hearts of all men.

Unfortunately for the natural man, he is blind to his condition, and apart from a "new birth" he can never see the glory of the kingdom of GOD. He can never proclaim salvation by grace alone because he is too preoccupied with establishing his own righteousness before GOD, just as the Jews did, in rejecting CHRIST, even though HE walked in their midst.

By nature men are convinced that they can bring something of value unto the LORD whether it be sincerity of purpose, obedience to the outward precepts of GOD's law, demonstrations of faith, or outward manifestations of worship and praise. In this state he can never find comfort and rest in a salvation that was purposed in Eternity by a GOD who cannot be approached by men.

Neither can he be content to magnify the glory of GOD's grace, apart from any participation by the creature. For he believes that he can bring faith to GOD rather than the necessity of GOD bringing faith to him. The natural man hates this declaration because it gives him no place in which to glory, nor any place wherein he might demonstrate his own worthiness compared to someone else.

The natural man is quite content to speak of a salvation of which man makes the deciding choice in time, but he recoils at the notion that GOD should do so from before the foundation of the world. He might speak of a Sovereign GOD with his lips, but in reality he believes in the sovereignty of man's free will.

GOD's eternal love to those whom HE has chosen in CHRIST is an abhorrent idea to that man who believes that salvation is by chance rather than by the design of a GOD who has predestined all things according to the good pleasure of HIS will. Thus the glory of the salvation of the elect Bride of CHRIST, is hidden from his view even though it is stretched across the ages of time like an unfurled banner, and is set forth upon every page of the Bible in bold letters which are unmistakable to those who have been given eyes to see.

There has never been a day when those whom the LORD has loved in CHRIST, have ever been hated, despised, or in any wise the objects of HIS wrath. Rather they are the appointed heirs of salvation, who, while hidden in the earth for a season, like a buried treasure, are brought to LIGHT at the appointed time by HIM who has purposed their redemption. They are brought to faith because they are ordained to receive it. (see Acts 13:48)

There are some who give an outward appearance of being among the household of faith for a season, but in time they prove that they are not the sheep of the LORD's pasture, as they turn back from following after HIM, and are content with that way from which they had seemingly escaped.

Isaac, is illustrative of those who are the appointed heirs of grace. He was born into this world as the heir of his father's estate. While Ishmael was a son of a bondwoman, Isaac was freeborn. Hagar was born in bondage and while benefiting from the wealth of Abraham, she was not an heir to any of it. Hagar nor Ishmael did not chose their birth (and the station befitting it) anymore than Isaac decided to be the child of promise. Yet he rejoiced in the GOD of his salvation.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

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