

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

The children of Israel traveled in a circular path between Mt Sinai and Canaan (i.e.; the land of promise) for forty years. Their wanderings through this wilderness and thorny desert serve to remind us that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of GOD. The generation that entered the promised land was not the one which was led by Moses. He presided over Israel from the time of their departure from Egypt until they were to actually enter Canaan, yet he was not able to lead them into this land of promise because of his death at the hand of GOD. He was allowed to view that glorious land from Pisgah's lofty heights but could not enter therein.

His death reminds us of the killing nature of the law, the fact that the soul that sinneth shall die, and also that there is no compatibility between that which is of the law and that which is of the promise. Even as the LORD told Nicodemus, *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (John 3:6) Throughout the scriptures there is a comparison and contrast between these two opposite principles.

Down through the ages men have sought to define the promises of GOD to HIS children as being contingent upon the keeping of the law in some measure or fashion. In this they do demonstrate the fact that the law is written in the very heart of man. It is this principle which causes men in their religious flesh to go about seeking to establish their own righteousness before GOD.

These "lawkeepers" (as were the Pharisees) seem to honestly believe that GOD will be impressed by their adherence to a moral code and in return bestow various blessings of one type or another on them as a result of their varying degrees of obedience to it. Yet to pursue this notion is to ultimately perish, even as Moses died in plain sight of that glorious land.

The reality is that man has never merited or earned one blessing from GOD on the basis of anything which he has either performed in his flesh or avoided by the same. All of the benefits which have befallen the sons of GOD in this world or that one which is to come have been the result of HIS unmerited favor.

There are many who claim that they believe in salvation by grace. They will say that they believe eternal salvation is truly and completely the work of CHRIST from beginning to end. Yet they try to resurrect Moses from his hidden grave on Pisgah's heights, by contending that men can either gain or forfeit the blessings of Canaan by their levels of obedience or disobedience.

JOSHUA led HIS people to inherit the riches of Canaan because of the promise which was given to Abraham and his SEED, not because of any adherence to the law or foreseen acts of obedience. Every victory which they gained, and yes every defeat which they suffered, was ordered by the hand of HIM who gave them this land by promise. In like fashion do those who are appointed by the LORD, gain every blessing which they enjoy simply by HIS grace and mercy; completely apart from any human merit or endeavor except that of the MAN CHRIST JESUS.

Thus we read of a "SECRET PAVILION", in which the people of GOD are hidden. By nature, religious men will seek a place of glory in the deeds and supposed, relative merit of their fleshly endeavors. They will measure themselves against one another and either accuse or excuse one another on the basis of those endeavors. They will boast of their knowledge and gifts, their positions, their religious practices and orthodoxy, and even their supposed "humility".

This "PAVILION" is a SANCTUARY into which none can enter, except those whom the LORD is pleased to "hide" there. We read that HE will *"hide them in the secret of HIS presence"*. The only man who has ever dwelt in the secret place of the most high is the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and it is in HIS shadow that we are given the privilege to be hidden with HIM even as HE hid Moses in the CLIFT of the ROCK while HIS glory (i.e.; HIS GOODNESS) passed by.

It is in this PAVILION that the sons of GOD are kept safe from their accusers even when that accuser is their own sinful flesh. *"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."* (Matt. 11:28)

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