

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Paul wrote to Timothy saying, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."* Paul was not, here, apprising Timothy of some worsening of man's nature which would arise two thousand years in the future but rather warning him of the corruption which is in men by nature and which would manifest itself in his own lifetime. Many modern day "futuristic prophets" teach that the "last days" is referring to a period which is yet to take place in the earth. Yet a perusal of the scriptures without such preconceived notions leads us to see that these days in which the apostle lived as well as the present age in which we currently abide, are the last days which were ushered in when CHRIST appeared in the earth as the FINAL and GREAT PROPHET of GOD. *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son."* John recognized this truth quite plainly saying, *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."*

The LORD is pleased to gather his children to himself when and as HE sees fit. It is but a testimony to the corruption of men and the purpose of GOD, that during these "ingatherings", there are also many false disciples who are drawn in among the saints, but having no root soon wither or are eventually choked out by the cares of this world as HE taught in the Parable of the Sower.

Paul spoke of this sobering truth, to the Ephesian elders, when he told them that of their own number there would arise teachers of perverse things which would reinforce the message of the wolves sent to deceive the church of GOD. So strong are these deceptions that even the very elect of GOD would be carried away by them, *"if it were possible"*.

While the elect of GOD cannot be destroyed by these ravaging wolves and those who lie in wait to deceive, they are nonetheless sometimes wounded and scattered by them. Thus the exhortations abound in the scriptures, urging the sons of GOD to be diligent and watchful, being wise as serpents but harmless as doves. *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."*

Paul mentions those who have a *"form of Godliness"*, and admonishes Timothy to turn away from such. To entertain or encourage these deceivers (and deceived) is to be a partaker of their sins. They must be warned, rebuked and admonished with the word of GOD, if perhaps there be among them a brother who might be recovered.

Satan has a counterfeit for nearly every truth that the LORD is pleased to work in HIS people. It is often very difficult to discern between the precious and the vile and thus the SPIRIT of GOD prompts the sons of GOD to watch and be diligent, shunning error and cleaving to those things which are sound and true. The scriptures warn us of those who have a *"form of godliness"*. They appear to be genuine yet they miss the mark in very important details, most especially, they deny the POWER which produces true GODLINESS. Some of these forms are"

The preaching of salvation by the free will of men. There is probably no greater error that has been introduced into, so called, gospel preaching, than the notion that a man can be saved whenever he chooses to be.

The preaching of the "new birth" as the **result** of faith rather than the new birth being the **cause** of faith.

The supposition that GOD is pleased with the good deeds of men. To hold this view is to deny the scriptures which tell us that even our *"righteousnesses are as filthy rags"* before the LORD. Man has nothing in himself whereby he might be found acceptable in GOD's sight, regardless of whether he is a Democrat or a Republican, Gentile or Jew, teetotaler or libertine. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD."*

The practice of outward displays of worship in order to be seen of others. *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:*

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