

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

Today the value of citizenship in our nation is slowly being eroded as increasing numbers of foreigners enter this country, who, for the most part, are not actually interested in adopting our culture, language, or values but are primarily interested in reaping the economic benefits that can be found here. Some even apply for citizenship here, but primarily for the economic benefit it will be for them and not because they value and delight in this nation. Few of them renounce their citizenship in the land of their birth but hold on to it out of devotion and become citizens here only for convenience. Thus, they become a people with a dual citizenship, one in the land of their birth which they love and the other in a land of strange customs for which they have no allegiance except economic advantage.

This situation is in stark contrast to the citizenship of the people of GOD. The LORD has a chosen people which HE has loved before the foundation of the world. They are the objects of HIS love and the reason that JESUS CHRIST came into the world as the REDEEMER. It is GOD’s purpose to call them out of this world and to fit them for that world to come, though they are born into this world just like everyone else. As natural born sons of Adam they are under the same curse and condemnation as all other sons of Adam’s race, as such, they have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD. They are worthy of death and have no reason in themselves to expect anything other than the just wrath of a holy GOD. If GOD should leave them alone they would all surely perish and receive the just recompense of their sin.

But GOD who is rich in mercy and full of grace has extended HIS mighty arm of salvation to them and rescued them from certain doom. HE sent HIS only begotten SON into the world to pay their sin debt and to buy them from the slavery into which they gladly sold themselves. In time HE awakens them out of the slumber of spiritual death and causes them to hear the glorious sound of the gospel of JESUS CHRIST which informs them of the work which CHRIST has done in the behalf of sinners and acquaints them with the glories of HIS person. They believe and trust in this ONE who has purchased their pardon. GOD in mercy takes up residence in them by HIS HOLY SPIRIT and transforms them into a new creature.

Thus begins an epic struggle for supremacy as their flesh strives against this SPIRIT. Paul writes about this struggle in Galatians 5:17 where he says, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* So the LORD’s people who have been regenerated by the HOLY GHOST have now been given citizenship in a country which they could not enter by natural birth. Though they are still living in the country of their nativity, they have renounced that citizenship, preferring to be called the sons of GOD and to dwell in that place to which HE has called them by HIS grace. But they are given a resolve by the ONE who called them and who presently upholds them by HIS mighty power to press on to that heavenly land. By the grace of GOD they have:

**Renounced the hidden things of dishonesty.** They desire to know the truth which the LORD has promised would set them free. They are uninterested in the fables and superstitions of religion. *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

**Turned from idols.** There is but one KING for the citizens of that new country. They owe no allegiance to any creeds, nations, or law except CHRIST. *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.”*

**Confessed that they are strangers and pilgrims in this world.** This world has nothing to offer us. We cannot but be hindered on our journey to the celestial city by the things which this world sets forth before us. As Isaac Watts said, *“Is this vile world a friend to grace to lead us on to GOD?”* *“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.”* Do you long to be free from the shackles of this world, and desire to be found as the citizens of that Heavenly Jerusalem? This world is not the home of GOD’s people.

*Thy free grace alone,”#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthepoor@windstream.net](mailto:forthepoor@windstream.net)**