

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

Gifted speakers, who masquerade as preachers of truth, can sometimes cause men to be stirred up in an emotional state which is often mistaken for true conviction of sin. When a man’s “conviction” arises out of the ability of the preacher to “turn a phrase”, perhaps causing the hearers to fear the consequences of sin, then that man will likely also be readily convinced that his deliverance from this fearful state of burning in hell forever, rests in his own ability to complete some evangelical formula called the “plan of salvation”. One, so convinced, can be perfectly satisfied for these “preachers” to pronounce him as one of the “saved”, because of his actions. He is easily persuaded that this “decision” to “be saved” has caused all of heaven to rejoice, and that his name is now recorded among the redeemed. In some circles one must also add the act of baptism or vain babbling to really seal the deal. All of which such men are ready to “do” and take comfort therein.

Much that is labeled as “faith” in many evangelical circles, today, is really nothing more than presumption. GOD is pictured as being much like the “genie” in Aladdin’s magic lamp. All one has to do is rub on the lamp and voila! GOD appears; ready to grant our wish. In fact HE is “unable” to resist coming out of the lamp, and is so relieved that men have rubbed on the lamp that HE grants salvation on preprinted cards prepared for the event. In the natural thinking of men they believe that they have both the right and the ability to be acquainted with the GOD of Heaven and Earth. They are convinced that they can “learn” about HIM by studying the scriptures, going to church, or hearing men preach just like you would “learn” about any subject which one is inclined to pursue. Many are inclined to think they can “know” the LORD, because they are persuaded that HE is in need of something which only they can provide; rather than vice versa.

Many presume that they can help GOD fulfill HIS desires by their decision to “accept” an “offer” of salvation from HIS hand as if HE was running a lemonade stand and is overjoyed when HE gets a customer. Salvation is not an “offer” nor is CHRIST on the auction block waiting to be “accepted” or approved. GOD cannot in any wise be aided by men. *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.”* Men presume they can believe. Men presume that GOD is bound by formulas and their religion. Men presume that they can gain something from HIM by their obedience. Men presume that GOD “ought” to come to their aid. Men presume that their “presumptions” constitute “faith”. Job was a man who actually did have some understanding of the truth of GOD, yet he was stripped naked and bare before HIM when the LORD was pleased to visit Job in power, bringing Job to declare; *“I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”*

When the HOLY SPIRIT is pleased to convince a man of his depraved heart and his wicked actions he will be caused him to cry out in deepest distress, like the Philippian jailer, or the men on the day of Pentecost who heard Peter preach CHRIST. The purpose of the preaching is not, simply, to produce despair in those who are given ears to hear it, but rather to bring *“life and immortality to light”*, apprising them of the reconciliation which CHRIST has procured. Man in his natural state has no appreciation for this message of redemption and is unable to hear it or believe it.

Therefore, in order for a man to hear this truth proclaimed and then to believe what he hears, his heart, mind, and soul must be prepared to receive it. Those whom the LORD has ordained unto eternal life are also those in whom the HOLY GHOST performs the work of repentance being made a new creature, not by the will of the flesh but by the power of the ETERNAL GOD. None has ever believed the gospel of the redemptive work of CHRIST, who has not first been convinced that he is a sinner, worthy of destruction and his utter inability to correct his situation.

This scenario could only result in total despair were it not that the same LORD who administers the wound is also the ONE who applies the healing balm of the REDEEMER, granting faith to both hear and believe. That faith which he has been given causes him to cling to an abiding hope in CHRIST, having no ability to depart from those things which his soul has been made to believe. So while the man who has presumption says, “I can tell you the exact time and place where I decided to be saved”, the man whom the LORD has given hope, says “Pass me not O gentle, Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others THOU art calling, do not pass me by.” “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to THY cross I cling, naked come to thee for dress, helpless look to THEE for grace, foul, I to the found fly wash me SAVIOR or I die. *“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy”.*

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