

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #7

singing : #204 "Self righteous souls on works rely"

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

One of the ways in which men seek to excuse their own sin is by pointing out the relative awfulness of the sin of others. In 2Cor 10:12 Paul says *"But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* By discovering an activity in others which they judge to be far more scandalous than any activity which they presently involve themselves in, they can somehow have a moment of self-righteous satisfaction as they contemplate their own avoidance of such an activity.

This practice arises from the belief that sin is better defined by particular actions of the flesh rather than the condition of the heart. The Pharisees were the poster children of just such an attitude and belief, as they preened themselves in their own "looking glass" of righteousness and religion while beholding the wickedness of others played out before them. This is most clearly seen in the prayer of the Pharisee contrasted with that of the Publican where the Pharisee even thanked GOD that he was not a great sinner.

All sin (regardless of the so called "degree" of it) stems from the same source, a well which flows quite freely in the very heart of every man who is born of a woman. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (Rom 3:23) *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one."* (Rom 3:10) When a man is given a true understanding of this fact, he will be humbled in the dust before a Holy GOD and abandon all hope of producing any sort of righteousness which might be considered acceptable in HIS sight. Such a man is not able to find any consolation in his sin compared to that of others.

Yet, until that occurs, the very nature of sin will cause him to go about to establish his own righteousness by a comparison of himself with what he perceives are the faults of others. In doing so he denies the true standard of righteousness which is alone found in the absolute righteousness of JESUS CHRIST. As long as a man can take any sort of satisfaction in himself relative to the actions of others he can in no wise submit himself to the "righteousness of GOD" revealed in JESUS CHRIST.

When men judge any man (most especially their own selves) worthy of favor in GOD's eyes by any means other than the substitutionary righteousness of JESUS CHRIST, they have spat in the face of HIM who is *"angry with the wicked every day"* (Ps.7:11). They do disregard the very work of JESUS CHRIST who came to demonstrate true righteousness by fulfilling the law in its jot and tittle and dwelling among men as the only man without sin. They also embrace the exact error of those Jews (and Gentiles alike) who say *"we will not have this MAN to rule over us."* The only thing that keeps any man from outward debauchery and baseness of the foulest kind is the restraining work of the SPIRIT of GOD and to consider that one has even a shred of righteousness is to despise the offering of CHRIST for sinners.

There is only ONE TRUE STANDARD of righteousness which has ever been set forth among men. HE is that ONE who was tempted in all points like as we are but was yet without sin. HE is that ONE who hung between heaven and earth as an offering for the sin of HIS people, imputing their sin to HIMSELF and HIS righteousness to them. Unless you stand in HIS righteousness you shall die in your sins. Oh you who know yourselves to be sinners of the worst sort, HE has demonstrated HIS purpose to save unworthy wretches and does even presently command them to come unto HIM that they might find rest unto their weary souls. Thus HE speaks to those who are awakened to flee from the wrath to come. *"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"* (Eze 33:11)

singing "When from this world my soul removes"

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