

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

The purpose of prayer is primarily worship. The man who is ignorant of this fact cannot possibly pray aright but is like that one who James speaks of *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”* Those who spend more time asking than they do extolling the glory of GOD are likely praying more with themselves than they are with the True and Living GOD.

The very act of prayer is a testimony to the absolute power of GOD over all things or else why would someone take the time to ask something of a GOD who was unable to grant the request. Those who hate the “absolute predestination” of all actions and events by GOD often argue that it would be pointless to pray if GOD has all things occurring according to HIS will. But I say that the exact opposite is true. What would be the point in praying to a GOD who was dependent on the actions of someone else or may or may not be able to bring something to pass? Or one who could only wring HIS hands as evil ran rampant in the earth and men and devils thwarted HIS purpose at every turn.

The phrase *“Lead us not into temptation”* is a clear testimony to the teaching of the LORD JESUS that there is no action which is not under the complete control of GOD. Even the very steps which men take in the earth are directed by HIM. *“A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.”* *“Man’s goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?”* We are totally at the mercy of HIM who says *“I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.”*

The scripture clearly teaches and our experience bears it out that the depravity of our heart is what inclines us to sin and brings about the consequences thereof. *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.”* The only thing that will preserve us from the destruction that waiteth at noonday is the mercy of GOD. Should HE not see fit to preserve us we will destroy ourselves.

The word for temptation that is used here literally means a trial. Paul told the Corinthians, that , *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* These trials may be simply the heartaches and suffering that occurs to all men or they may be the result of the sin which doth so easily beset us.

GOD has ordained all things to occur in the lives of HIS children for their benefit, even when it does not appear so at the time. Our mind goes to Joseph: the LORD saw fit to direct the steps of his brethren to sell him into slavery that it might ultimately fall out to the good of his family and fulfill GOD’s purpose. Those trials often include our own sin. The LORD is sometimes pleased to remove HIS restraints from us (which is the only thing that keeps us from destroying ourselves) that we might be chastened by our sin even as HE did with David, in order to acquaint David with the utter depravity of his own heart which he confesses in Psalm 51.

So we might say that on the one hand if the LORD was saying we should pray that the LORD would not “lead” us into trials of any sort we would be sometimes praying against the will of GOD who has designed these trials for our benefit. Therefore it seems to be quite clear that what HE is instructing us to pray for is a deliverance from the destructive power of those “temptations” or trials. For HE goes on to say *“but deliver us from evil”* or from the power of evil to destroy us. Let us not be overcome with evil or become the total slave thereto. Even as Paul reminded the Corinthians, HE will *“with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*

This is why David could now say in the Psalms, *“I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”* Have you known the LORD’s deliverance?

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