

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #10

singing : "Wide is the gate of death" #308

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

For the last 100 years the common message that has been preached among the vast majority of those who call themselves Christians is that a man becomes a true believer in JESUS CHRIST simply because he makes a decision to be. If the necessity of the new birth is even mentioned, it is described as an event which takes place as a result of man using his own free will to decide to be a follower of CHRIST. Some describe this event as occurring through an outward confession of faith by the mouth while others purport that it occurs through some activity of men, such as baptism in water, or aligning oneself with some religious organization purporting itself to be the true church. But in just about all cases most preaching declares that GOD causes men to be born again after they believe.

The scripture is quite clear that the opposite is actually true. Those who are possessors of true faith believe as a result of being born again by the SPIRIT of GOD rather than vice versa. It is impossible for a man to have true faith apart from a supernatural work of GOD to awaken him from the deadness of his natural sinful state. Even as the LORD said to Nicodemus, *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* And then as Paul writes to the Ephesians, *"Even when we were dead in sins, (HE) hath quickened us together with Christ, For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

The LORD JESUS laid the axe to the root of man's notion that he will be able to enter the gates of Heaven on the basis of a religious profession. HE plainly said, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* HE illustrated the same thing when HE gave the parable in which many were compelled to go to the wedding feast, but when one was found among the guests who did not have on a wedding garment he was cast out.

In Matthew chapter 25 the LORD set forth a parable about Ten Virgins. HE said that five were wise and five were foolish. Both the wise and the foolish had lamps that were burning. This is typical of an outward profession of faith and akin to saying LORD, LORD. In this part of the country it is quite common to find many if not most people who have made some sort of public confession of faith in CHRIST. Most are satisfied with this "burning lamp". Yet when the BRIDEGROOM came only those who had oil in their vessels as well as their lamps were able to go in to the feast.

By inference these foolish "virgins" represent those who call themselves Christians but who in reality are so in name only without the fruit of the SPIRIT or the evidence of the new birth. The wise virgins, on the other hand, illustrate those who are the true sons of GOD, who are given the gift of salvation manifested by the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT in each one. Those who are "wise" are made so by the sovereign grace of GOD totally apart from any merit or ability on their part. A man might increase his level of knowledge by study and personal endeavor but "wisdom" is a gift bestowed by GOD.

A man may possess some "religious light" but unless HE is indwelt by the HOLY GHOST he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* The lighting of a lamp and the continual burning of it are not the same. Only the LORD can give HIS people light and keep it burning until the BRIDEGROOM appears.

singing "Tis THY almighty grace" #308A v.2

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