

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

Relatively few of the LORD’s children are called upon to undergo the same level of trials that the apostle Paul was called to endure and just as few are called to enjoy the heights of joy to which he was lifted. But all of GOD’s children are being taught the same lesson that he said he had learned. *“in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”* This is not an understanding that men are born with but GOD’s elect sons must be taught it to greater or lesser degrees as the LORD sees fit.

It is part of our human nature to grumble, fret, worry, and complain about the various states we find ourselves in. It seems that we are born with the expectation that all of our hopes plans and dreams should come true. Everything is always supposed to work out. When we get in the car in the morning we just assume that it should crank, it should never run out of gas, or have a flat tire, especially when we are already running late for an important meeting. But GOD does not view things as we do and HE has often determined that the car should have a dead battery, or run out of gas, or have a flat tire, especially when we are already running late for an important meeting.

HE is presently working in HIS people and is daily conforming them to the image and likeness of CHRIST, *“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”*

This is extremely taxing to those HE is pleased to *“exercise by chastening”*. Most people think that the “chastening” spoken of in the scriptures that is applied to the sons of GOD is the result of disobedience or some retaliation by the LORD on them for some wickedness which has arisen in them and then they conversely feel that any blessings they enjoy are the result of some obedience they have performed. This is the exact viewpoint that Job’s illustrious friends had as they raked him over the coals to the point that Job was moved to call them *“miserable comforters”* and *“physicians of no value”*.

No chastening is at the present time (or when we are undergoing it) an enjoyable thing but the benefit of it is seen once the “chastening” has had its perfect work and the fruits of it are made plain to see. The chastening which the LORD is pleased to apply to HIS freeborn sons is not some foretaste of HIS vengeance but is HIS perfect design to teach us valuable lessons through our own murmurings and disobedience as HE sends HIS HOLY SPIRIT to convince us of our sin.

Contentment in whatever “state” we are in must be learned. It is not natural to us. Even as the scripture says, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.”* This means that it was necessary for HIM to go through the same temptations as we (yet without sin) in order that HE might experience our humanity. This is almost too glorious to contemplate but we do understand that because of this HE is able to be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. But even as HE “learned” (or experienced) obedience so it is that we shall learn contentment.

Paul is not speaking to the Philippians as a young man but penned these words after many years of ministry and sacrifice. It is almost impossible to expect that a young man should understand contentment because it is so “natural” for young men to overestimate their ability to control the events in their lives. The converse of this can only be learned by the faithful chastening of the LORD. This is why Paul told Timothy not to set apart a young man to the office of Elder (Bishop). *“Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”* The office of elder is not to be occupied by someone because they are simply knowledgeable of doctrine but they must have been “exercised” by the LORD to “learn” lessons which cannot be gained from books or even from a mere study of the scripture. The scripture must be applied to the lives of those whom GOD would raise up for such a work.

There is nothing more disconcerting (if not downright aggravating) to those who have yet to “learn” contentment than those who by the grace of GOD can confess with Paul that they have “learned” it. They are often accused of being lazy, unmotivated, unconcerned, and unrealistic. Not to mention having their heads in the clouds or the classic, too heavenly minded to be any earthly good. Martha was busy preparing a meal for her guests (as she was given grace to do) but she began to fret that Mary was not giving her aid. The LORD said, *“Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”* To wait upon the LORD without murmuring is the blessing of contentment.

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