

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

The natural course of all churches is to depart from the truth as it is in CHRIST. He warned Timothy of it and this has been demonstrated time and again down through the ages. In order that men not think themselves to be something when they are nothing the LORD is often pleased to remove their candlesticks and leave them to their own devices. HE does this to winnow HIS wheat and shake that which can be shaken so that those things which cannot be shaken shall remain. The wheat and the tares always grow side by side and the ultimate purpose of this threshing and winnowing is to differentiate those that walk in true faith from those who willingly abide in the comfort of dead religion.

Men, often, become puffed up with knowledge and then like the rich man, say to themselves, “*take thine ease*”. They sometimes waver from their own steadfastness even though they may outwardly still hold to the letter of doctrine by which they were once humbled. The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked and we must be constantly on our guard, lest we “swerve” from the “truth” into vain jangling. We are bound by nature to fall into the ditch except the LORD should see fit to deliver us by the operation of HIS SPIRIT in leading us into all truth, not in the letter, but in the power thereof.

Many churches point to their “pedigree”, “rules of order” or “statements of faith” as proof that they are still steadfast and walking in the light, yet how often have these become mere sparks which their own hands have kindled and their own fires by which they seek to warm themselves, while Ichabod has been written on their doorposts. There is more to doctrinal soundness than an accurate rendition of doctrines codified in verbose “confessions of faith” penned hundreds of years before. The purpose of preaching, teaching, and exhortation is not to enable us to be able to repeat certain shibboleths which define orthodoxy but rather that we might be edified and encouraged to emulate CHRIST by loving one another even as CHRIST loved us.

The concept of “love” (in the scriptures) has been so cheapened over the years that in the minds of many, the “love” of GOD for men is defined as some general feeling of goodwill to each and every one of the human race. HE denies this concept saying, “*Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated.*” Yet the scriptures exhort the children of GOD to love one another. The LORD said, “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*” John said, “*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*” This particular love between the children of GOD stems from a work which only the LORD can perform in them. It cannot be found in the unregenerate. It is that love which arises out of:

A Pure Heart. Peter says “*See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.*” A pure heart is the product of the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT in a man. It is discovered in the testimony of those who are convinced that their only righteousness is that which is imputed to them by JESUS CHRIST the RIGHTEOUS. A pure heart is staid upon HIM as its only hope. When a man is taught this truth by the SPIRIT it will cause him to forbear with his brethren and overlook their many faults since he is quite aware of his own which are covered by the blood of CHRIST. It is that love which arises out of:

A Good Conscience. “*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” A “good conscience” describes the state of a man’s understanding who, having heard the gospel and been given grace to believe it, rests in the finished work of CHRIST. He is completely satisfied with that which CHRIST has done and has no desire or expectation of adding anything to it. He rejoices that, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*” A man who is taught this truth by the power of the HOLY GHOST understands that his brethren enjoy the same standing and does not sit in pharisaical judgment of them nor demand that they conform to his own standards of propriety. It is that love which arises out of: Faith unfeigned. Paul fondly recalls the “*unfeigned faith*” of Timothy’s mother and grandmother. He is speaking of a faith which is not forced or learned by rote but one which is firmly seated upon a proper OBJECT. This sort of faith is that which is only the result of the gift of GOD. In the same fashion in which the LORD grants faith to HIS children HE also causes them to love one another. This is not optional behavior on the part of each one but rather that to which they are compelled by the SPIRIT of GOD. “*He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*” “*But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*” “*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.*” Do you love your brethren in CHRIST?

“*Thy free grace alone,*” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast**

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