

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

The perversion of the gospel began quite early on in the days of the New Testament Church. It is no wonder therefore that two thousand years later, the preaching of gospel (so called) has, for the most part, been so thoroughly perverted so as to be nearly unrecognizable. I often wonder if the apostle Paul returned, and viewed the fragmentation of those that call themselves Christians and gospel churches around the world, if he would not conclude that the preaching of the gospel which he declared has by and large ceased. It is rather presumptuous for any sect or order to label themselves as being champions of truth to the exclusion of all others, but I do think that it is possible to identify some clear characteristics and identifying marks of the unperverted gospel that Paul declared. “Let God be true, but every man a liar.” We can boast all we want of our pedigrees, confessions of faith, or other claims to orthodoxy, but if we do not proclaim that which Paul preached, then he said we are to be accursed. *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*

Perversion of the truth is often hardly recognizable and seldom begins with gross departures from truth but most often presents itself as an “addition” to it. Deception is “deceitful” or else none would ever be “deceived”. Satan has transformed himself into an “angel of light”, so it is no wonder that the “perverters” of the gospel are for the most part preaching many things that are true. Yet in order to be the gospel which Paul declared there can be no alterations either by omission or addition. So how can we “test” the preaching of the “gospel”?

It must begin and end with the glory of GOD. It has often been said, by those who despise the preaching of GOD’s unconditional election of a people unto salvation, that such preaching is a waste of time. The basis of their argument is built upon the false notion that the preaching of the gospel is for the purpose of saving men. While it is true that the LORD “saves” men by the foolishness of preaching, it is also true that the purpose of preaching is to glorify the NAME of JESUS CHRIST in the earth. HE said, *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”* It is for HIS glory that we preach and HIS glory that must be proclaimed wherever and whenever the true gospel is preached. HE is *“the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last.”*

It must be the proclamation of CHRIST alone. HE said, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me.”* Peter declared, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* Paul said, *“Christ is all, and in all.”* In order to preach the gospel one must preach, CHRIST, the whole CHRIST, and nothing but CHRIST. JESUS CHRIST came into the world to save HIS people from their sins and HE has done exactly that. The preaching of the gospel is the preaching of CHRIST with nothing added. Faith is not an addition which makes salvation complete but is the manifestation of the completed work of CHRIST in saving HIS own.

It must be the preaching of JESUS CHRIST crucified. Paul said, he had only one message, *“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”* The central theme of gospel preaching must be the declaration of a complete redemption wrought by the work of CHRIST. *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”* There is no cooperative effort on the part of man to make that which CHRIST performed effectual. *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* HE came into the world as the REDEEMER and HE left it as the same.

It must be the preaching of JESUS CHRIST triumphant. *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* *“That in all things he might have the preeminence.”* We are not waiting for the day when CHRIST shall reign, but do bow down before HIM as the risen and reigning KING who sits in royal state upon the throne of HIS mediatorial kingdom which shall have no end. *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”* Even so come LORD JESUS!

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