

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Throughout the Old Testament, we see the practice of building altars. The primary use of these altars was to offer sacrifices to the LORD upon them. Yet they were also raised as a testimony, memorial, or a commemorative monument marking some event which the builders thereof, wanted an indelible reminder of.

Noah built an altar when he emerged safely from the Ark. Noah's constructed that altar to give thanks as he offered blood sacrifices. Yet this altar was also built to commemorate the great display of the mercy of GOD, towards an unworthy creation. It would stand as a testimony to Noah's heritage, of the glorious deliverance which they had received, totally without merit.

We see Abram build an altar, to mark the fact that the LORD had appeared to him and announced HIS gift of the land of Canaan to Abram's seed. He built altars on five separate occasions. Yet the most famous altar that he constructed was that one which he build on Mount Moriah, where he would have offered his only son, Isaac, had not the LORD "*provided HIMSELF a LAMB*" for the burnt offering.

Years later, the LORD appeared to Isaac in Beersheba and he too raised up an altar to commemorate the event and the fact that the LORD's mercies were ever present upon him. When Jacob, came to Succoth, "*he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.*" This stood as a monument of testimony to the Faithfulness of GOD to the house of Israel.

The final "monument" which has been raised before men is the declaration of the Gospel. Paul told the Corinthians, "*For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*" The preaching of the gospel is meant as a testimony or witness to the glory of the Blessed GOD who ordained it and supplied it. The preaching of the gospel declares the immortality of the man, CHRIST JESUS and manifests the completed work which HE has performed in the behalf of that people which HE has loved from the beginning.

This is a living monument because this same gospel shall be preached as long as the world stands and can never be overturned, but shall manifest the triumphs of CHRIST even in the ages to come, world without end.

Those who have received this declaration, embracing its truth and falling down in worship of the LIVING CHRIST, have themselves become a "monument" to the grace of GOD. For how could they believe in HIM of whom they had not heard, and how could they have heard except that HE should have both sent the message and given them ears to hear it.

A monument must have an enduring quality about it or it cannot be a true witness. Thus Paul says of them, "*Ye are our epistle (i.e.; word of testimony, a monument) written in our hearts, known and read of all men.*" Those in whom the LORD is pleased to perform HIS perfect work shall indeed stand in that TRUTH which they have initially embraced. To believe the gospel is more than simply the reception of a few facts, it is to embrace that TRUTH and cling to it as a matter of LIFE and death.

CHRIST is our SALVATION, HE is our RIGHTEOUSNESS, HE is our SANCTIFICATION. If any man would preach "another Jesus" than that ONE which PAUL preached, then he would seek to turn men aside from following HIM. Thus HE declared that he "determined" to know only one thing when he was among them, which is the very essence of the gospel, "*JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified.*"

True brotherly love is the evidence or "monument" which the LORD would manifest in those whom HE calls. This perfect "love" has been truly demonstrated by ONE man born of a woman, the MAN CHRIST JESUS. "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

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