

RADIO TRANSCRIPT #20

singing : “The Lamb is exalted repentance to give,”#239

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

A thief may steal something from another man and do so without any qualm of conscience, but even a thief (without exception) will be angry if someone else steals something from him. This illustrates quite clearly that he knows it is wrong to steal even though in his corrupt and selfish nature he can excuse his own wrongdoing.

Paul states that even the Gentiles, who were not given the Law, written in tablets of stone, nonetheless, have the principle of the law ingrained in them. *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;”* This is demonstrated quite clearly by the fact that every man (in the flesh) believes in “an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” Even young children manifest this very principle when they are struck by another child or a toy is taken from them.

True forgiveness is not just an action taken now and then, but is rather a state of mind produced by the SPIRIT of GOD causing the children of GOD to have regard towards the mercy of GOD which has been demonstrated towards them. The fruit of the SPIRIT in the child of GOD causes him to delight in forgiveness. The legalistic mind of the flesh is that which demands satisfaction or at least a credible apology before granting its own version of forgiveness.

It is this legalistic mindset which holds the notion that one should not grant forgiveness unless he sees fruits of repentance in the offending party. The fruit of the SPIRIT produces a mind which is not concerned with apologies but rather is impossible to offend.

That man who is led by the SPIRIT of GOD hopes to be found with the same mind which was in CHRIST JESUS as HE prayed for HIS tormentors. *“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* No one apologized to HIM nor asked for forgiveness. HE prayed in this fashion because that was HIS nature as a perfect MAN who had the SPIRIT without measure.

Longsuffering, forbearance, patience, tenderness, and kindness are necessary parts of forgiveness and where you find one you will find the other. It is the evident work of the SPIRIT when these attitudes are found and the obvious work of the flesh when they are disregarded and set aside in favor of “justice”. Has not CHRIST given us HIS example, *“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not.”*

There is a certain aspect of “forgiveness” which relates to the legal remission of sin which CHRIST did undertake in HIS own body on Calvary’s tree, yet the primary meaning of “forgiveness” as it is set forth throughout the scriptures is not the legal satisfaction itself, but rather the result of the “legal action” which the LORD is pleased to apply to the conscience of the called.

When John says, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.”* He is not saying that the legal standing of the sons of GOD is dependent on them confessing their sins. The legal standing of the sons of GOD as those whose sins are paid for by CHRIST is not in anywise dependent on their own actions, but rather, in that work which CHRIST undertook, in their behalf.

Yet the application of “forgiveness” is brought to them through the work of repentance which is wrought in them by the SPIRIT of GOD, causing them to confess their sins and thus enter into the joy of the LORD in their own conscience. As a man is humbled by the SPIRIT to see CHRIST as that PERFECT SUBSTITUTE, he can then taste the “forgiveness” of GOD. This is an ongoing work of the SPIRIT in them, causing them to confess their sins while being reminded of HIS blessed work as their ADVOCATE both in the past and at the present moment

Thus it is impossible for a hard hearted, unforgiving man, to have his own sins “forgiven”. That man who is without repentance has no enjoyment of the blessings of redemption in his own soul.

Singing (“Repentance flows freely through Calvary’s blood,”) #239 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net ,**