

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

Paul admonished the Galatians concerning the apparent departure of many of them from the truth of the Gospel, concerning their reliance upon the law. *“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”* A man cannot be “persuaded” simply in mind by rote recitation of the scriptures, but must be caused to *“obey the truth”*, or in other words to walk in light of that which one recognizes to be true. Paul upbraided Peter over this very matter when he told him, *“But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?”* A man is not persuaded of HIS freedom from the law if he is compelled to put the saints under the law.

David wrote *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”* Paul followed this up by saying, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”* To be persuaded by the SPIRIT of GOD is to love the brethren and seek peace among them. *“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

The LORD often uses the scriptures, preached by men, sent by the power of the HOLY GHOST to break down the walls of their rebellion and to bring life and immortality to LIGHT in their soul. This is that “FAITH which comes by hearing.” A man cannot be “persuaded”, apart from the gift of faith, and cannot follow CHRIST except he believes, as one follows the other.

Paul speaks of his persuasion that the LORD will be faithful to those whom HE calls, *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”* *“But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.”* He was persuaded that the LORD would indeed work in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure even as David of old testified, *“I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.”*

John writes, *“And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.”* The *“assurance”* of FAITH comes from the same SOURCE as the FAITH itself. A man must be “persuaded” by the HOLY GHOST in order to be assured even as Peter confessed, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* This is the same confession that HE made later when he said, *“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”* This is that *“assurance”* or *“persuasion”* that comes to those who are given the gift of FAITH.

Luke’s introduction to his Gospel, describes his account as *“those things which are most surely believed among us.”* Paul describes Abraham as being *“fully persuaded”*. There is no shadow of turning in this sort of *“persuasion”* for it is not built upon the ability of men to believe according to an action of their free will, but is that which is engraved in the heart by the power of the HOLY GHOST.

Paul admonishes Timothy to faithfully declare the WORD of GOD, despite those who turn from it, *“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”* He clearly testified of his own *“persuasion”* when he said, *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”* *“I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

Religious men may learn and teach many doctrines which support various traditions which undergird their belief system, but only the SPIRIT of GOD can write the TRUTH upon a man’s heart in such a fashion as the scripture describes as being *“fully persuaded.”* Peter was fully persuaded of CHRIST when he said, *“LORD to whom shall we go THOU hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that THOU art that CHRIST the SON of the LIVING GOD.”* Are you thus persuaded?

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