

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

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

Someone has said, "If you tell a lie long enough even you will begin to believe that it is the truth." There are at least three categories of lies. First are outright lies which are so preposterous that any sane person would never believe them. For this type of "lie" or storytelling, there are actual competitions for those who aspire to be champion "liars". These types of "lies" are essentially harmless and are often a grand source of humorous entertainment. An example of such is: a man told me that it had gotten so dry, that the fish he caught had fleas.

Then there are "lies" which are expected, such as we see demonstrated by practically all of those in the political arena. These lies are accepted by a candidate's supporters, as "truth" (since they have itching ears), and by their detractors as insidious evil. These sort of lies (sadly) just go with the territory and any man is a fool to really expect that a candidate will actually stand by their word. Politician's must bend the truth (i.e.; lie) in order to be elected, though most would never admit to it (it's called politics). Thinking adults should not be taken in by such. The candidates hope that you will forget what they said when they get in office.

But there is a category of lies which are so subtle, that they go undetected by the multitudes, yet are so insidious that they subvert the hearers and cloud the truth, in such fashion that even men with some spiritual understanding are caught in their snare. By this characteristic we see this subterfuge to be the product of him whom scripture says is the "father of lies".

He is able to transform himself into an angel (messenger) of light. Because of this it is often difficult to discern between those who are themselves "willful deceivers" and those who are themselves "deceived". In either case to perpetuate a lie is to subvert the truth and mislead people. Paul warned the Ephesian elders of this reality and admonished the Galatians, who at one time appeared to be the followers of CHRIST from being turned aside from following after the truth.

It is not uncommon for there to be a "falling away" from sound doctrine in the lifespan of most churches even as Paul prophesied. There are many "religious organizations" who have figured out a formula to perpetuate themselves after the flesh but there are essentially none who do not devolve into places with Ichabod written over the door and ultimately disappear in the course of time. This is most often the result (humanly speaking) of disregarding sound doctrine and entertaining (while being entertained) doctrines of devils.

Some might object to calling these aberrations of sound doctrine, "lies", so we will simply label them as "*fables*" since Paul uses that term. One of these "*fables*" is discovered in the common use of the term "faith", as we see it set forth by the rank and file of those who call themselves Christians and what they believe that the scripture means when it says "*the just shall live by faith.*"

Simply put, the scriptures put far more emphasis on the "object" of faith than they do upon the "activity" of faith. Faith and justification go hand in hand, but rather, than faith producing justification, justification is that which is the basis and grounds of faith. It is quite common to hear men speak of being "justified by faith" as if the activity of a man, believing the gospel, causes him to then (at that point) be justified. Yet the "justification" of GOD's children is the sovereign work of GOD, just like HIS predestination, calling, and glorification of them.

When we read, "*the just shall live by faith*" we understand that he is referring to the very basis of his hope and expectation. This "FAITH" in which the sons of GOD find rest and comfort is CHRIST HIMSELF. That which HE has performed for them is the SUM and SUBSTANCE of all of their hopes, the BASIS of all of their expectations. Far be it from us to consider any righteousness which is not completely HIS own, or any source of standing or recognition which does not spring from HIM as our SUBSTITUTE and REDEEMER.

This is the "FAITH of CHRIST". It is exemplified by HIM. It is provided by HIM. It is performed by HIM. It is by HIS stripes that we are healed; by HIS blood that we are justified, by HIS grace that we have access into the glory in which we stand; and by HIS resurrection that we have hope.

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