

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

Abraham was given a promise that in him all nations of the earth would be blessed. He was given two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. This prophecy was fulfilled in the offspring of both to a certain degree but only one of those sons was the heir of the promise. Just as Isaac is typical of those who are the elect sons of GOD, Ishmael is typical of those who live and die in this flesh without being made recipients of grace. A man’s natural birth has nothing to do with whether or not he is given an entrance into the kingdom of GOD. The LORD is truly no respecter of persons.

GOD told Hagar that HE intended to make Ishmael into a mighty nation, which HE did. Ishmael was blessed with many lands, children and flocks. He became a mighty man in the earth. In this, Ishmael is typical of the men of this world who confess that this world is their home and they take great delight in the blessings and enjoyments which is afforded them in this fleshly realm. They are not much concerned with spiritual matters except in a passing way, finding much greater delight and enjoyment in those things which can be touched and handled. They are content to build bigger and better barns, to take their ease in the enjoyment of this world’s goods. They are not bothered about worlds to come nor do their faults and failings give them much reason to mourn except insofar as it hampers their ability to enjoy the way of the flesh. They are easily satisfied with external religion (church attendance, tithing, etc.) and see no reason to overdo that, preferring to forsake the assembling of themselves together for the things they deem more important, such as recreational pursuits and quality time spent with family and friends. They are quite content to be entertained with some sort of amusement even when they do take time out of their busy schedules to be religious.

The children of the promise are often looked upon with pity by the sons of Ishmael. They shake their heads and can only wonder why anybody would actually take delight in the things of GOD. It is amazing to them that someone would actually read the bible and pray for some reason other than religious duty. They cannot grasp the delight that these heirs of grace take in the precious words and promises of the SAVIOR nor can they understand how one could desire to worship HIM privately, quite apart from organized religious activities. Or why one would go about seeking to obey the LORD even when nobody is looking or will ever find out. The world sees these children of the promise as a “peculiar people”, kind of fanatical and a little unbalanced.

There is a contrast between the sons of the promise and the sons of Ishmael in:

The things that cause them heartache. The sons of GOD truly mourn over their sin and the disobedience that is common to their flesh. They are constantly mindful of how far short of GOD’s standard of righteousness that they come. As long as the sons of Ishmael have an abundance of this world’s goods, a healthy body, and a prosperous family they are generally quite content and without much heartache.

The things that bring them joy. True joy for the heirs of the promise is to walk in HIS presence and blessings. To hear the good news of the gospel proclaimed is a glorious feast for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. To be reminded of the perfection of the LORD and the imputation of our sin to HIM and HIS righteousness to us, affords the true child of GOD a constant source of joy unspeakable and full of glory. To have HIM whisper words of peace in their ear is a joy beyond compare. If the sons of Ishmael are just told that they are going to escape the fires of hell they are quite joyful as long as their bellies are full and they have their earthly desires fulfilled.

How they view the Law of GOD. The sons of Ishmael most often view the law of GOD as a measuring stick by which they can tell how much better they are today than they were yesterday. They see it as a measurement of sanctification. The children of the promise, while they revere the law and bow to its holiness, are always quite discomforted by it since it is a constant revelation and reminder of the sin that doth so easily beset them.

What they consider heaven to be. The sons of Ishmael would gladly trade being in the presence of the LORD, for a full belly and the enjoyment of the flesh. The children of the promise, however, would rather suffer the pains of hell if that’s what it took to be with the LORD. Job said, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him”* Wherever CHRIST is, is heaven for the heirs of the promise. Peter said, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”* The children of the promise confess: *“Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”*

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