



The Mission Trail

BOX 101

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST" — JOHN 4:35

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. . . A very cheerful greeting to all the listeners of radio station XEG. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Your speaker is Willie Murphey, and we are glad to be coming your way once again with another gospel message. We feel deeply indebted to those who have so faithfully stood by with their prayers and support to help us bring this gospel message in the interest of those who are acquainted with the saving power of our Lord and also in behalf of those who know not what it means to have peace in their hearts. These we are endeavoring to reach. We are happy to report to you that we have been hearing from some who need this spiritual help.

Consider now this scripture in Philippians, the third chapter and beginning with verse thirteen. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do,

FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND,

and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

I am sure there is a depth of riches wrapped up in these two verses which we will not be able to uncover in such a short time. Therefore, it is my plan to comment briefly upon the first part of our text and perhaps enlarge upon the balance of it in the next two broadcasts. We hope you will be able to hear these for it will be very beneficial to get more of the thoughts expressed in these two verses. That's in the next two broadcasts now following this one.

But listen again to the words of the apostle when he looked upon the race which was before him. First, he was willing and ready to forget the things which were past. This is not always an easy thing to do, but it is a very

important thing which will greatly assist us if we are willing to lay aside and put out of our minds the things which may have been a stumbling block, or it may be necessary for us to forget the ambitions which we once possessed. Especially is this true if these aspirations were not in accordance with the will of God.

In this case the Apostle Paul, no doubt, was willing to lay down his education at the feet of Christ even though he was so learned in the schooling of his day. He had the advantages which many others would have been glad to have had. He understood the law and may have had an opportunity to rise to great heights in the social circle of his day. But all of these he was willing to forget in order to win Christ.

Furthermore, it is highly possible that some of his past experiences may

have been used by the enemy to accuse him. When he thought of the day Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was stoned to death, it may have brought pain to his heart as he remembered that it was at his feet where the coats were laid by those who cast the stones. This may have caused him trouble when he remembered his part in such a vicious crime against God and his church.

It is also possible that the Apostle was troubled when he thought of his own active part in causing many of the early Christians to be bound and to be cast into prison. He also was responsible for causing some to speak blasphemies against the name of Christ.

Therefore, we notice two things which we must be willing to forget. Part of these would be the things which appeared good to us and worthwhile, but if they do not conform to the will of God for our lives, it is God's will that we forget them and not allow them to be an hindrance to us in performing his will for us.

The next thing which we should forget is the accusing finger of guilt for our own transgression when we lived in sin, being hateful and also hated by others. But when one is forgiven through the marvelous grace of Christ, they should no longer allow the past to hinder them in fulfilling the mission which God has for them in this life.

Paul here says, "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Now I realize all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. This is the sentence of death which has passed upon all through the transgression of

Adam, but God is merciful and ready to forgive sins.

Listen to verses 18 and 19 of the 7th chapter of Micah. I quote: "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression on the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Now, friends, don't you know that if something is cast into the depths of sea it might be a little hard to locate again. There have been things so big as a ship which sank in the ocean and they became very hard to locate. This is what God said he would do for our sins--that is to cast them into the depths of the sea. I believe that when he does this they are taken away from us forever, not to be remembered against us any more.

But remember this: I want to tell you that it is not God's will for his children to continue in sin. For when they are forgiven they are transplanted into the kingdom of God and are no longer under the dominion of Satan. Therefore the fruits in the life of a child of God are the fruits of the spirit and they do not continue in sin.

Let us look at the life of a child of God objectively. We might say there is a purpose and plan for each life. So from our text we see the first thing for us to do when one's sins are forgiven, is to forget the past and allow it no longer to hinder us in reaching forth to the things which are before them. And this is exactly what I want to speak to you about on the broadcast next week. We hope you will tune us in next Friday night at 10:45.

Now I do not mean to say that we are absolutely able to forget and erase from our memory all the happenings of yesterday, but we learn from these experiences, and they become a blessing to us, even though in disguise, to help us with the problems of today. Therefore, the things of yesterday which would hinder us today, we lay at the feet of our Saviour and profit from these lessons which have been so costly. Listen now to the poem entitled:

LIFE'S LESSON

I learn as the years roll onward
And I leave the past behind,
That much I had counted sorrow
But proves that God is kind;
That many a flower I'd longed for
Had hidden a thorn of pain,
And many a rugged by-path
Led to a field of ripened grain.

The clouds that cover the sunshine,
They cannot banish the sun,
And the earth shines out the brighter
When the weary rain is done.
We must stand in the deepest shadow
To see the clearest light;
And often through Wrongs' own darkness
Comes the weary strength of Right.

The sweetest rest is at even,
After a wearisome day,
When the heavy burden of labor
Has been borne from our hearts away;
And those who have never known sorrow
Cannot know the infinite peace
That falls on troubled spirit
When it sees at last release.

We must live through the dreary Winter
If we would value the Spring;
And the woods must be cold and silent
Before the robins sing.
The flowers must be buried in darkness
Before they can bud and bloom,
And the sweetest warmest sunshine
Comes after the storm and gloom.

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Let us spend a moment in prayer.

Our Father,

There may be those tonight hearing this broadcast who are troubled because of the things in their past life. We pray that thou wouldst help them to so grasp the promise of God that their past may be completely under the blood of Christ our Saviour. May they realize that it is not necessary for them to be tied to their past sins and in this way hindered from rising above them to do thy will. But may they be set free, both now and forever to abide in thy will and grace, and to thee we'll give the praise for we ask it in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen

Here now is a song entitled "Oh, the Glory Did Roll" and is sung by the McIntosh family -- Leo and Mildred McIntosh, the parents, Don, Joan, and LaDonna, their children.

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like to have a printed copy of today's message, you may have one free of charge by simply sending us your request. Now until next Friday night at 10:45 this is Willie Murphey speaking for The Mission Trail and saying may God's richest blessings be by yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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Be sure to hear the broadcast next week on the second part of our text which says "reaching forth unto those things which are before". It is one thing to be able to commit the past to God and yet another thing of equal importance to move ahead with him in reaching forth to the things which are before us. It is true that we do not know what tomorrow holds. No doubt, there are disappointing things which await us, but the eternal promise of God is our refuge for he has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee".

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

--Psalms 46:1

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It was a pleasure to see the Lord's people gather in Guthrie for the services which came to a close Sun. night. One could not fully appreciate the singing, the preaching, and the fellowship of those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb unless they had been here in person.

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The campmeeting in Boley, Oklahoma begins today. Let us pray that much lasting benefit may result from the gospel seed sown there.

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From North Carolina:

Dear Bro. Willie and all, We greet you in Jesus' dear name. We are here in North Carolina. The Lord is blessing us with another good meeting. Having our largest crowd so far. Our next meeting, Lord willing, will start August 22nd in New Castle, Indiana on the SE side of town on Cottage Avenue. Pray much for this meeting. Your fellow workers in the service of the Master, --Bro. M. Samons
General Delivery, New Castle, Indiana

Bro. Ted Bock and his wife, Alta, wish to express their thanks for the many prayers of the saints in their behalf. Alta and the children were injured in an auto accident last month. All are recovering very nicely for which they are thankful.

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From Louisiana: Dear Bro. Willie and family, We enjoy so much the receiving of The Mission Trail each week--with your message and the news of the different saints. We cannot always listen to your broadcast as I work late two out of three Fridays, but the paper brings the message just the same. We surely appreciate your labors for the Lord and know He will reward you abundantly. We can also appreciate your recent decision to launch out more fully in His work and realize the consecration that this step took. May the good Lord bless your efforts richly. We desire your continued prayer in our behalf as this skin trouble I have been having is not completely healed, although my arms are much better the last few days. Genevieve still needs prayer too, she has too many headaches. With Christian love, Arnett Carver and family.

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