



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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. . . We are happy to be coming to the listeners of radio station XEG once again with another gospel message. This is THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and your speaker is Willie Murphey. We have been made very happy by the response which we have gotten from week to week from those who help us share the cost of this gospel broadcast. We appreciate your interest and prayers.

Our mailing list continues to grow as we add more and more names of those to whom we send the printed copies of the message each week. If you have not yet written us requesting these weekly messages, be sure to send us your correct name and address at once that we may begin mailing them to you. There is no subscription price nor obligation on your part. We do this on a freewill offering basis and all you have to do is write us requesting that we mail them to you.

Listen now to this scripture reading from the book of Deuteronomy, the 11th chapter and beginning with verse 26. I quote, "Behold,

I SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY A BLESSING AND A CURSE;

A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known."

This is certainly a very worth-while reading from the Holy Scriptures. Notice the first part of the text. We see a choice given to an individual. It is indeed a privilege to live in a land where we have a choice. There are many today living in countries who suppress the free choice of the people, and they are forced to live in a manner which they would not necessarily make their own choice. We are happy to be living in a land where we have a right

to choose. We hope it shall always stay this way.

But look at the choice which God provides for us to make. He says, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse." Now whether we receive a blessing or a curse depends upon which choice we make. God does not force people to serve him. He does not compel them to follow his commandments. But he allows them to make a choice which way they shall go in life.

When the daughters-in-law of Naomi came to the point when it was necessary for them to make a choice, they were not forced to return to their people, neither were they forced to accompany Naomi. But Orpha and Ruth had a de-

cision to make. Both of them loved Naomi. Orpha lifted up her voice and wept, kissed her mother-in-law, and returned to her own native land. But when this matter of a choice was given to Ruth, she firmly told her mother-in-law of her decision.

We read from Ruth, chapter 1, and beginning with verse 16. "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her."

I am satisfied that many blessings came to Ruth because of her choice that day. It was not only a blessing to her, but this choice has served as an inspiration for many who have lived in the years which followed her life. We are still reaping of the benefits of her choice which she made many years ago.

And speaking of good choices, I remember the choice Joshua made as recorded in Joshua 24:15. He reminded the people of the choice which he was making for he said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

There's one thing which might be well to mention at this point, and that is, those who make negative choices. Most people do not necessarily choose to lose their souls, for many times

they do not definitely make a decision to reject God and his way. They merely put off or delay to carry out his purpose and plan in their lives. In this way, we might say, they are choosing a curse.

A good many years ago I saw a sign on a fence which read, "Keep Out--this means you". One man approached the fence who was unaware that I was within hearing distance of him. He read the sign to himself, "Keep Out--this means you". Then he proceeded to climb through the fence into the restricted area. As he talked to himself I heard him say this, "When I get out, I sure will keep out." Then he continued across the fence.

Friends, this is about the way some people do the commandments of God. They really intend to obey the will of God at some future date. In other words, they might say to themselves, "When I get saved, I am really going to keep saved." But here is the tragic part of such a decision. They never seem to become willing and ready to put into practice their good intentions. They seem to feel that at some future date the way will be much easier for them to follow.

Remember the text. It says, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse." This means if you are going to take the offer of God, you must choose to do so this day, not tomorrow or next week or next month, but you must choose this day. Tomorrow, circumstances will be different in your life; tomorrow, many things will have changed from what they are today. Many times tomorrow the desire is gone from one who once had good intentions to make a wise choice at some future time.

Listen now to this poem entitled:

TODAY

Upon the threshold of "today" I stand, --
It lies before me, fresh from God's own
hand,

Without a blemish--mine, for good or
ill,

But, if I trust to self, to my weak will,
To keep it spotless, I shall surely fail;
Thy strength and guidance can alone
avail,

So now my heart goes out in earnest
plea,

That, for today, Thou wilt abide with me.

Life's yesterdays forevermore have
passed

Beyond my reach; and now, O Lord,
Thou hast

Them in Thy keeping. Let Thy right-
eousness

Hide the dark stains they bear. Help
me to press

On toward the mark. Humbly, dear
Lord, I pray,

That, as each "morrow" merges in
"today",

I may surrender all I am to Thee,
And that Thy presence may abide with
me.

For, so abiding, doubt and strife must
cease.

With Thee to lead me on, the perfect
peace

That passeth understanding I shall know;
Alike through calm and gale I needs must
go

My way content. Then, on that morrow
fair

Which brings deliverance, grant Thou
my prayer, --

So shall I evermore abide with Thee.

--Selected

Friends, I hope if there is one con-
sidering the road which they must
choose in order to receive a blessing,
that they will make that choice im-
mediately and commit their life to God

who holds the future of tomorrow in
his hand. Surely we should not lightly
disregard the opportunity for a choice
to receive a blessing from the hand of
God.

Let us unite our hearts as we look
to God in prayer.

Our Father,

Should there be one listening to this
broadcast tonight who is at the cross-
roads of life and death in their deci-
sion, we pray that you would give them
the grace to make a free will choice
as they choose to walk in the way where
you have promised the blessings would
abound. Then, too, we pray for that
one who has trampled under feet the
instruction of thy word and is very near
to the brink of destruction. For them
we ask abundant mercy that they may
turn from their unwise choice and re-
ceive pardon through thy marvelous
grace and to thee we'll give the praise
through Christ our Saviour. Amen

Listen now to the song "There Is
Glory on the Winning Side" as sung by
Bro. and Sis. Leslie Busbee, Bro. Bud
Porter, Sis. Lowe, and others from
Springfield, Missouri.

This message has been brought to
you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie,
Oklahoma. If you would like a printed
copy, free of charge, you may have
one without obligation by simply ad-
dressing a request to us. And now
until next Friday night at 10:45 this is
Willie Murphey saying may God's rich-
est blessings be yours and a very pleas-
ant goodnight!

--o--

"That in blessing I will bless thee, and
in multiplying I will multiply thy seed
as the stars of the heaven, and as the
sand which is upon the sea shore; and
thy seed shall possess the gate of his
enemies." Genesis 22:17

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:

Hyrum and Geneva Ray of Guthrie, Okla. and also Johnny Ray wish to express their gratitude and heart-felt thanks to all who have been so earnestly praying for Johnny since he was critically injured almost three weeks ago while riding his Honda. They have felt the mighty arm of God strengthening and upholding them in their deep trial. Johnny still needs prayer but is much improved and is presently at home. The cards and letters of encouragement are also appreciated.

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The saints of Sapulpa, Oklahoma wish to extend a hearty invitation to all who can attend their all-day meeting on the fifth Sunday which will be October 30. The chapel is located on the old Sapulpa Road between Sapulpa and Tulsa.

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From Myrtle, Mo. . . "At this time wife is feeling some better in body. Pray that the Lord will do a definite work for her." Alsia & Bessie Sorrell

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Sister Ruth Murphey is slowly improving but is yet very nervous. She writes that she is "still on the mend".

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Sister Mae Nottingham, a saint of Union City, Indiana died Tuesday, October 11.

". . . We are gleaning today and this week at Zion Hill, near Benton, Ark. . . . Indeed we are workers together with God. Pray for us."

--Bro. and Sis. Sam Abbott

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The space again fails me to tell of all the experiences which Kathleen, Patsy and I have had the past two weeks while traveling more than 3000 miles and being in services in many places. We felt the presence of the Lord while in His service with the saints of Springfield, Mo., Ragsdale, Ind., Dayton, Ohio, Akron, Ohio, Kalamazoo, Mich., Vera, Ill., and Kansas City. Frances remained at home where she cared for the correspondence of The Mission Trail and kept our sons Willie and Wayne in school. Your letters of encouragement have meant so much to us as we endeavor to spread the Word of God. It seems if there were ever a time when this is needed, it is now.

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We visited Brother and Sister Curtis Williams of Clearfield, Kentucky. His faith is strong, and he feels that God is strengthening him in body although he is not yet completely healed. His father is also improving from the strokes which he had.

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