



The Mission Trail

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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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. . . It is a great pleasure for me to bring another gospel message to the listeners of radio station XEG. This is Willie Murphey speaking. We hope that each of you are well and happy in the service of the Lord. Many thanks to those who are helping us maintain this weekly broadcast, and we appreciate those who help us pay the postage on the printed copies each week. If you desire to write us, you may do so by addressing your letter to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Listen now to this scripture reading from Isaiah, chapter 5 and verses 1 and 2. It says, "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill; And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes."

This scripture shows us that God has given his best for those whom he loved. Listen then to the question which he asked in verse 4.

"WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE MORE

to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?"

Here's an important question for us to ask ourselves. What more could God have done than that which he has done to thoroughly convince us that we should surrender ourselves--spirit, soul and body unto him.

Now concerning Israel of the flesh, it is pointed out that God has planted a vineyard and gathered the stones out of it. His vines were of the choicest type. Then he built a tower in the midst of it and a winepress. After this he waited for the fruit of his vineyard, but what happened? He was disap-

pointed. Natural Israel or the Jews were a disappointment to God. Many of them did not receive Christ as the redeemer. Then, of course, the word of the gospel was taken to the Gentiles. This includes all other nations. Let us take heed lest we also should be a disappointment to God. To those who receive Christ, he gives them the power to become the sons of God.

Listen to these verses from St. John chapter 1 and beginning with verse 11. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but

of God." I like the thought expressed here. God's children are born of the will of God. This makes them heirs to all of the good things which He has prepared for those who love him.

But God is limited in that he does not save a man against his will. He can only save according to just principles. It is not his choice to use force, but he does use the power of persuasion.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in II Corinthians, chapter 5 and verse 20. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

Let me remind you of a few things which God does to restrain men from sinning. He gives them the power of reason, judgment, and conscience. He often reproves men. Sometimes his judgments are a threat or a forewarning to those who are headed in the wrong direction. Yet along with all of these warnings, God shows his love for them. Sometimes he sends his chastening rod, and yet other times, the judgments of God fall upon those who fail to heed his warnings.

Furthermore, God gave his son to die for them. He sends his spirit to strive with them. Often times he uses ministers to preach to them. Even then there are those who will not attend the services of worship because they do not want to follow the teachings of God's word.

In most every home the Bible is to be found there. Yet how often it is neglected and lies in some corner to collect the dust while the members of the home go about the other affairs of life, unheeding its command. But His word is given to entice men to seek the

road to heaven. Many times God bears long with those who are sinful and offers his promise of mercy.

He not only requires that which is reasonable and just, but he gives the spirit of God to assist those who would seek to do his will. All men everywhere he has commanded to repent for he has appointed a day in the which he has declared that he will bring the world to judgment.

Listen to the 30th and 31st verses of the 17th chapter of Acts. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

You see, God has all power, but the will of man often stands in his way to use that power--that all men might be saved. We might liken it to one who threw a life-preserver to another who was drowning in the sea. If the drowning man was unwilling to grasp the life-preserver, his method of rescue, he would surely perish even within reach of those on the shore who were endeavoring to help him. God offers mercy. Will you spurn and reject his love? Another scripture says, "If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land.

Let me ask you again the question, "What more can he do than what he has already done?" And, I would like for you to think of this question as being asked by God himself. He demands an answer. If you are lost, who will be responsible?

Then when you are reminded that God has done so much, let me ask you

this question, "What have you done to respond to his call?" Have you turned away from your sins with a repenting heart? Have you called upon God for mercy and pardon that your sins may be blotted out? Are you walking in the way which the spirit of God directs you--the way of peace and satisfaction? If you are not living in this way, we hope that each one who hears this broadcast tonight may begin from this very moment to do something about it.

Now I know we cannot go back and alter the past. This is gone from us forever, but the present and the future is yours. What will you do about it? Will you linger yet in sin, or will you arise and turn from your evil way to walk the road which leads to heaven?

Listen now to this poem entitled:

ONE BY ONE

One by one the sands are flowing,
One by one the moments fall;
Some are coming, some are going;
Do thy best to grasp them all.

One by one thy duties wait thee--
Let thy whole strength go to each,
Let not future dreams elate thee.
Learn thou first what these can teach.

One by one (bright gifts from heaven)
Joys are sent thee here below;
Take them readily when given--
Ready, too, to let them go.

One by one thy griefs shall meet thee;
Do not fear an armed band;
One will fade as others greet thee--
Shadows passing through the land.

Do not look at life's long sorrow;
See how small each moment's pain;
God will help thee for tomorrow,
So each day begin again.

--Selected

Let us spend a few moments in prayer.

Our Father,

We are thankful that thou hast done so much for our comfort and salvation. Help us to take advantage of every opportunity to be a good witness for thee. And to thee we'll give the praise through Christ our Saviour. Amen

Listen now to the song entitled: "I Have a Longing in My Heart for Him", as sung by David Baird, Verna, Tony, and John Samons.

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 by sending us your request. And now until next Friday night at 10:45, this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be yours and a very pleasant goodnight!

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MORE ABOUT BRO. GOLDEN

From Kentucky: "Dear Bro. Willie, Greetings of Divine Love to one and all . . . I'm writing to say that our dear Bro. Thomas H. Golden passed to his reward April 1st at Anderson, Indiana. . . Bro. Golden was past 90 years old and spent many years of his life in the service of God. He traveled extensively giving out gospel literature and taking the advantage of every opportunity to talk to people about their souls and God's salvation. Some time ago he asked Bro. Abbott if he would officiate at his funeral and added, 'perhaps you can say something that would cause my loved ones to see their lost condition and turn to God.' Let us now assume his burden to pray for them. . . A short time ago, Bro. Golden. . . said, 'I want to visit the saints in Dayton, Ohio one more time.' This he did on the last all-day meeting. He was happy in his soul and praising the Lord. . . " --Sister S. E. Abbott

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND THAT:



The Guthrie chapel is shown here with the new addition of 32 feet which is being added.

After much planning and several delays work is moving forward on the addition to the Guthrie chapel which will provide considerable more room for those who attend the assembly meetings and camp meetings. More Sunday school space will be available, also new rest rooms. When this picture was made, the cement block work was being finished. It is planned to begin work on the roof Tuesday, April 18th. Those who can possibly do so are requested to come and help the remainder of the week as there will be much to do. Those interested may obtain further information from Bro. M. A. Davis, Route 4, Guthrie, Okla. Phone no. Bu 2-3442.

Some months ago Bro. Brownson Udeme in Nigeria requested prayer that God would bless him and his wife with a child. This week we received a letter from him with the good news that these prayers have been answered. They have named their son Enietie, which means "like God". Perhaps you would like to read his own words. "Now Bro. Murphey, the Lord has done a great thing to me whereof I am very happy. Do give me a space in the Mission Trail that all the readers may praise the God of Heaven with me thus:

"Thank you, Father, Lord and God,
Thou author of all eternal good.
Thou dost inhabit the heaven of heavens,
And to all mankind thou breath has given.

"Thou has blessed me with a child,
The hopes of foes are now in despair,
Who is like unto our heavenly God
That wipes the tears from our eyes?

"Grant, O Lord! that the child may grow
up,
To be serviceable, humble and devout
to Thee,
That he may be one of the pillars,
To support Thy work in the Church of
God. . ." --Brownson U. Udeme

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