



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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Is Your Life Approved of God?

(Radio broadcast on Sunday, October 22, 1967.)

. . . A cheerful good morning to all the listeners of THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast. This is Willie Murphey coming your way once again with a short gospel message. We are glad that God has made it possible for us to come your way over this radio station. If you get a blessing, we would be glad to hear from you, or if we may assist you in finding a closer walk with God, we would be happy to hear from you. Address your letter to THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Now if you have your Bibles, turn to the 2nd chapter of II Timothy, and let us read the 15th verse. It says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

In the midst of turmoil and trouble on every hand, the war and distress of nations, here is a verse which, I believe, we would all do well to consider. Is your life approved of God? This verse says to study to shew thyself approved unto God. There are many subjects being studied these days, but I am convinced that if people spent more time studying how to be approved unto God, their lives would be richer and fuller, and the world would be a better place in which we could all live together in peace.

Listen to this verse from the 5th chapter of I John. Verse 4 reads this way, "For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." You see it is going to take some faith to be victorious in this life. The next verse says, "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the son of God?"

Now just a moment. There is another thing to think about. Some people seem to pride themselves greatly on their ancestors, that is their foreparents, or their own learning or political standing. Perhaps even their social

life seems to be among the elite or their education one of the best. They want for very little in a financial way, but does all of this make one approved of God? I hardly think so.

Listen to this 18th verse from the 10th chapter of II Corinthians. "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." You see, the spirit of the Lord and the Word of God is that which is trying every man's heart, and their works shall be made manifest in that great and final day when God shall reward each one according to his work. It is then that we will realize the value

of our lives being approved of God and not of our selves only.

Let me be quick to tell you that God certainly does not approve of all that people do these days. Do you think the Lord approved of the Apostle Peter when he stood warming himself by the fire and denied that he even knew Christ? Do you think that Jesus was pleased when Peter said one day, "I go a fishing"? You may read about it in the 21st chapter of John.

You see, he had been with Christ. He had seen the miracles. God had blessed his life, but somewhere along the way he had lost the vision of the call of God. Look at the effect it had on those about him. "They say unto him, We also go with thee." You see, sometimes a person does not realize the effect their lives may have on others when they fail the Lord. Peter took along other disciples with him, but you may be sure Christ knew where he was, for when he appeared on the seashore and began talking to them, Peter said, "It is the Lord".

I wonder how Peter felt that day when he met the Lord face to face once again. The trial was over, the crucifixion was past, and the resurrection had taken place. Now once again Peter met his Lord. Do you think he could do it with a good conscience? Do you suppose he remembered when Christ said to him one day, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Peter seemed to have lost the vision. Remember the text. It says, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Friends, I want to tell you the Word of God is not always divided rightly

today. There are those who will use it for their own advantage and not for the glory of God and for the benefit of lost souls.

Jesus asked Peter a question that day. He said, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" Now of course, Peter was quick to affirm his love for Christ, but you see, some of his past actions and words spoke otherwise. Nevertheless, he said, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." He was asked this question three times, and each time Peter positively affirmed that he did love his Lord. These questions grieved the heart of Peter, and yet I believe that Christ impressed on his mind and heart so vividly that day the fact that he must love in deed and truth--not in words only. It is then that one's life is approved of God.

One more thought now before we leave the Apostle Peter. He said to his Lord, "What shall this man do?" But Christ gave him an answer that day which has been long remembered in the world. Here it is, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me." From that moment on, I believe, Peter began to realize to even a greater extent what it means to study to shew thyself approved unto God. Peter was not always approved of men, but I believe he sought to do the things that pleased the Lord.

Christ said upon one occasion, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" You can find that in Luke, chapter 6 and verse 26. We read again in Matthew 7:29, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Remember now the text as I give it to you once again. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Friends, I believe that if we abide in the truth, we will have no need to be ashamed when we stand before God in that great day. Listen now to this poem entitled:

I SHALL NOT PASS AGAIN THIS WAY

The bread that bringeth strength I want to give,

The water pure that bids the thirsty live: I want to help the fainting day by day; I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears, The faith to conquer crowding doubts and fears,

Beauty for ashes may I give always: I'm sure I shall not pass again this way. I want to give good measure running o'er,

And into angry hearts I want to pour The answer soft that turneth wrath away; I'm sure I shall not pass again this way. I want to give to others hope and faith, I want to do all that the Master saith; I want to live aright from day to day; I'm sure I shall not pass again this way.

Let us pray.

Our Father,

Help us to obey thy word that we may be approved of God, and may we be useful in the winning of souls and turning them from darkness unto light. Bless all those who hear the broadcast today, may they find thy grace sufficient for every need, and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Here is another thought which I would like to linger with you. I hope it will be your motto.

Use me, Lord, use even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where;
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.

Listen now to this song entitled, "The Echoes of Calvary", as sung by Kenneth and Lois Abbott.

This message has been brought to you by THE MISSION TRAIL of Guthrie, Oklahoma. If you would like a printed copy free of charge, please let us know. There is no charge or obligation on your part. Now until next Sunday, this is Willie Murphey saying may God bless you each and every one and a cheerful good-bye!

More About the Campground

In speaking about the land near the national campground at Monark Springs, Missouri which the saints have been hoping to purchase for more cabin sites and parking room, Bro. Bob Stover said last week that only about \$3,000 had been received for that purpose. There should be at least \$5,000 or \$6,000 in order for the trustees to begin negotiations to purchase this land.

The price on a 99-year lease for each lot is \$100. You may take several at \$100 each. Congregations may participate. The money is being deposited in a savings account drawing interest, and in the event the trustees are unable to buy the land, the money will be returned to the sender with the interest.

Those who have been planning to get a lot in this new addition should send in their money at once, otherwise, it may be necessary to drop this project indefinitely. All checks should be made payable to The Church of God and sent directly to: Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97th West Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74131. Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337, is co-signer.

The Fields Are White Already Unto Harvest

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

From Baja mission, Rosarito, Old Mexico: "May our God of love bless each one who reads this and give them more burden to pray for souls! We are much encouraged by the mighty blessings of the Lord and so thankful for new ones who find their way to the service here. Our Brother Manuel is proving to be a good worker and interested in the truth. Our faithful Sister Cristina Esquiers is doing well teaching the children. We had 23 children last Sunday who answered the Bible questions well.

"Almost every night here is prayer meeting night as different ones come in for prayer. We are so thankful for their burden to pray, and their interest to walk closer to the Saviour.

"The bean pot is on, and we are looking for Brother Tomas and family who will hold a few nights meeting here.

"So thankful for the messages the Lord gives me. I am. . . thankful for the way the Lord is helping me in Spanish. . . Your sister in Christ,"

--Carrie Shepperd

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Following are a few of the highlights of a message given by Sister Carrie. The report was given to us in both English and Spanish. We're passing along some of the message to our readers in English!

"We Should Give God Pleasure"

God made man for his own pleasure in his own image. Gen. 1:26-31.

God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Gen. 2:7.

As long as the spirit of God was with

Job, he would not speak wickedness but rather spoke to please God. Job 27:3, 4.

God made the first Adam with a living soul. The second Adam was Jesus whom God sent from heaven with a quickening spirit. Jesus pleased God in obedience unto death, even the death of the cross. I Cor. 15:45-58.

How much more should we be obedient in all things to please our God. Phil. 2:5-15.

"Let my beloved come into his garden, and let him eat his pleasant fruits." Song of Solomon 4:16.

Our hearts, if filled with the Holy Spirit of God, are the gardens of God and contain only pleasant fruits for God to gather as love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Do you have these fruits to give God pleasure in gathering?

Just as God came down and walked in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, he wants to live in our hearts and walk with us. Rom. 12:1-21.

Love is the fulfillment of the law. Rom. 13:8-14.

God is love, and to please God, we must have love. If we have the Holy Spirit--which is God with us, we have love, but we need more and more of God each day. Covet earnestly the best gifts--LOVE. I Cor. 13:1-13.

How sweet are we through trials? When a rosebud is crushed, it sends forth perfume. When we are in a trial, can others see Jesus in us? I Cor. 13:4-8.

"But the greatest of these is charity." I Cor. 13:13.

Can you say "Let my beloved come into his garden and eat. . ." Sol. 4:16

Testimonies

From Louisiana: "Dear Bro. Willie and family, I'm encouraged to press on for the Lord this morning and feel very thankful for all His many blessings. I do trust all of you are well. We went up to visit Dad Esters last night. He listens to your program on KCKW and told me he enjoys it very much. . . Please remember us in prayer. Christian love,"

--Mrs. Willard Esters

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From Minnesota: "Dear Brother Murphey, Greetings in Jesus' precious name. . . I love my Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ with all my heart and want to do his will the rest of my life. Pray earnestly for me please. I need my Lord's help. . . Your Bro. in Christian love," --E. J. Kirchner

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From Tex.: "Good morning! Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I have been enjoying the paper and am praying for you all. . . The encouraging words about our trials really helps. I need your prayers for my children. They need God. . . Christian love,"

--Nellie Lovell

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From La.: "Dear Ones, Greetings in the love of Jesus this beautiful fall morn. We are so happy that you have been able to get the radio station in Shreveport. We never could pick up Jena on our little radio. We have wished that you were able to get on KLIC here in Monroe, but we do know that the radio privileges are very expensive, and it will take much prayer and help from God if you are able to use these stations. The devil is not pleased with any effort we put forth for God and will hinder in every way possible. . . In Christian love,"

--Sibyl and Ben Goldsberry

From Michigan: "Dear Bro. Willie and family, Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. Trust all is well with you folks. We are fine, thank the Lord! Just a short note to tell you we do appreciate the paper, Mission Trail. So much good reading, and at times it is just what I need to help me to look up to the author and finisher of my faith.

"Then, too, here is a little offering to help in the work. Not much, but every little bit helps. It took just five loaves and two fishes to feed the multitude for God gives the increase. Praise his name!

"We are still thanking the Lord for healing Ralph's back and leg, for it truly was in bad shape for a while. At times he wasn't able to stand up straight, and he was in constant pain, hardly able to do his work in the garage. He would have to do a little and then come in and lie down, but the God of mercy came down on the scene and touched and healed him completely. Since then he has been able to lift many heavy things and gets around just as good as ever. What a mighty God we serve!

"We are still having services out to the little school house, and, of course, Bro. Key is still with us. Thank the Lord. We have a new family with us now for which we are thankful. They are such an encouragement to us. . . Wish that you could come visit us again sometime. . . I must close for now and get busy. Pray for us as you think of us, and we do you as often as possible. Yours in Christ," --Bro. Ralph, Sis. Dorothy Wilkins and family

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From Arkansas: ". . . Just a line to let you know I've not forgotten you all. . . So much has happened since I last wrote you. My father has been very ill. . . My daughter has been very bad again. . . Pray for me and ask all the saints to pray." --Sibyl Delahunt

AT PRESS TIME WE UNDERSTAND:

It was indeed a pleasure to meet with the saints of Neosho, Missouri last Sunday at their all-day services.

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Sister Erma Johnson has sent us a sample copy of a book of poems written by her mother, Sister Josephine Taylor, who lived in Okmulgee, Okla. before her death August 13, 1966. Sis. Josephine was well known, having been with the saints for years. Her book of poems printed after her death contains 33 pages and is being offered free to those who request them. Her daughter states, ". . . There is no price list. However, we would appreciate any donations. The money will be used to secure a stone for our dear beloved mother's grave. . . ." For your copy, write directly to: Erma Johnson, 1308 N. Adams, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

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Saturday night we attended the singing in the Central Community Building near Pea Ridge, Arkansas. It was well attended, and a number were present who came from some distance. We feel the time was very profitably spent in singing, exhortation, and scripture reading.

Bro. Ostis Wilson has been bringing some real heart-searching messages in the revival meeting here in Guthrie last week. The meeting is continuing this week.

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All-day meeting is scheduled for two congregations next Sunday, October 29th--Sapulpa, Oklahoma and Springfield, Missouri.

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Sister Fannie Hunter died Wednesday, October 18th. She spent her last days in the Golden Rule Home. Her funeral was in Oklahoma City, Friday, October 20th.

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Considerable interest is being shown by a number of the saints to have the broadcast heard over local stations in their particular area. We desire your prayers that God may direct us in each step which we take that all may be done to his glory and the benefit of his people throughout the land. We also desire that his Word may awaken hearts who yet remain slumbering in darkness. We believe that God's people should "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints."

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