



The Mission Trail

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Dedicated to a Backslider

Radio Broadcast for week of December 3, 1967--(See back page for list of stations)

. . . A very cheerful good morning to all the listeners of this radio station. It is a real pleasure to be coming your way once again with a short gospel message. This message is brought to you weekly by The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma. Your speaker is Willie Murphey. If you would like a printed copy, you may have one free of charge by simply making known your request. We maintain this work by faith in God, depending upon Him and those who feel directed by the Lord to help support it. We appreciate your interest and prayers.

Listen now to this text found in Proverbs 14:14. "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways; and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." Did you ever hear of a backslider? Do you know what a backslider is? But first let me tell you that according to the best of my knowledge this is the only verse in the Bible (we are speaking of the King James version) in which the word "backslider" is mentioned. Now if it is found in any other place, I have failed to locate it. If you have done so, write me and tell me where it is found.

We are speaking now of the word "backslider". This is a Bible term and has a special meaning. Here is a definition according to Webster of the word backslide: "To slide back; to become worse in one's actions or behaviour." That is very simple, isn't it? It is a matter of one becoming worse either by action or behaviour, and, of course, we understand these things to be motivated by the heart or affections.

Now you might think that since the word "backslider" is mentioned only once in the scripture, it is not very important, but that is not true. For the term backsliding is mentioned many many times in the Bible. This would refer to those who are continually going backward rather than forward. They simply refuse to walk in the light. You see, you have a choice. You may go on with the Lord, follow the teachings of His word and spirit, or you may go back into sin. Now here is where the controversial part comes in. The ques-

tion is this: Is it possible for one who has been genuinely and thoroughly saved to backslide away from the truth and eventually be lost? Let us look further into the scriptures for our answer. The text that I gave you says "the backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways." This is characteristic of one who has departed from the truth. They are filled with their own ways, and they are unwilling to receive instruction.

John, while on the Isle of Patmos, was instructed to write to the churches

and in Revelation, chapter 2 when writing to the church at Ephesus, he said, "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them, which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Therefore, those who are backsliding are losing their first love.

In II Corinthians, chapter 11 and verse 3 we read, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." Those then who are backsliding are drifting away from the gospel standard of truth.

Listen to the 9th verse of the 11th chapter of I Kings. "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice." Does this not indicate that it is possible for one to turn from God after having once known him? That is what happened to Solomon.

And should it have been impossible for one to backslide, then why would we have such scriptures as is found in II Corinthians 10:12. Let me read it to you. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Judas was one of the twelve disciples, and we are told that he fell by transgression. Again we read in Hebrews 4:11, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Friends, let us face the facts of

New Testament teachings. It is highly possible for one to fall into sin who has once been sheltered in the love of God. Were this not possible then there would have been no need for the numerous warnings which we find in the scriptures from one cover to the other. I will say this: It is not necessary for one to backslide. You are not required to be a backslider.

I Peter, the 1st chapter and verse 4 says, "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." So you do not have to be careless and indifferent about serving the Lord. You do not have to lose interest in going to meeting, in testifying and in praying. It is not necessary. You can be an overcomer if you walk in the light, but once you fail to accept the truths which you know to be right, you are treading on slippery ground.

Listen to this poem entitled:

DEDICATED TO A BACKSLIDER

We read about your illness,
Am sorry for the same.
Been praying much concerning you,
That Heaven you might gain.

The way there-to, is very strait,
And narrow as we go,
And when we turn aside therefrom,
Means only grief and woe.

Perhaps you one time knew the Lord,
Enjoyed his blessings, too,
And felt his healing touch so sweet,
As only God can do.

The devil is so mean you know,
Out souls to captivate,
He'll keep us bound in his domain,
Until it's too late.

If we will lend a listening ear,
His gossip to receive
Will fill our hearts with doubt you see,
And then we can't believe--

That He's just the same today
To save, to heal, to keep.
He's ever ready for your need,
If you will only seek.

We beg you turn to Jesus now
The one who died for you,
Can heal your body sound and well,
And save you thru and thru.

And when it comes your time to go
To meet the life you've lived,
He'll guide you o'er this chilly tide,
And heaven's blessings give.

--Sister S. E. Abbott

Should there be one who hears this broadcast and you are aware that you have departed from the truth and that you are backsliding away from God, I have good news for you. God has made provision for backsliders to repent and be restored again.

But here is one final word of caution, should you fail to do that. Listen to this solemn warning from II Peter, chapter 2, verses 20, 21, 22. "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment, delivered unto them.

"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog

is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."

Friends, that is pretty strong language, but that is scripture, and it is right before us. It is found in the scriptures, and we can read it for ourselves and know that it is true. It is a solemn thing and a serious thing to turn from the commandments of God and to be a backslider. Oh, I want to tell you there is hope for you. You can come back to the Lord if you will just make your decision to do so. Come repenting and confessing your carelessness and indifference and repent of it. Turn to the Lord and be saved again and know the joy which you once had.

Let us pray.

Our Father,

We are glad for the scriptures which will enlighten every man who will turn his face toward the truth. Bless each one who hears the broadcast today. Restore the backslider and may he find the joy which he once knew the moment he received Christ, and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Saviour. Amen

Listen now to this song, "There Is Glory on the Winning Side", as sung by a group 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, just send us your request. We would be glad to send you one. Until next week this same time, this same station, this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be with each of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

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God Gave His Best for Us

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33

From Oklahoma: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey and family, Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am thankful for salvation today and for his rich benefits unto us and thankful the Lord knows how to feed his hungry children. I don't mean to say that the Lord's people are a starving people, but it seems like the more the Lord blesses us in the soul, the more we desire from Him. One day about a week ago while working outside, the good Lord saw I needed a blessing, so He helped me to get started on a chorus of an old song which went like this:

Precious, more precious,
Wealth that can never be told.

Oh the unsearchable riches of Christ,
Precious, more precious than gold.
I sang the chorus over and over and meditated what the riches of Christ were to us. Bro. Willie, think about it. They're ours if we want them. Later when I found the song in the song book, I found rich thoughts in every verse that richly fed my soul. The 3rd verse read like this:

Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ
Freely, how freely they flow,
Making the souls of the faithful and true,
Happy wherever they go.

Thank the Lord for his blessings we can have in his word, or song, or printed pages or the preached word.

"We have been having a wonderful meeting. It closed yesterday. I've been enjoying and rejoicing in the Lord, but yet this morning I had a longing to read some more before going out. I thought it had been some time since we got the last Mission Trail. I went to check whether I had missed one. No, I hadn't missed one, but since I had it

out, I read some of it over again. I want to say I truly enjoy the Mission Trail messages and also the testimonies of the saints. At times when I read the testimonies I feel like I had a good little visit with the saints. May the Lord bless each of you is our prayer, . . ." --Edwin, Lillian Eck & family

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From Oklahoma: "Dear Friends in Christ, 'The Mission Trail', What if He had not come? I am so thankful for God's great gift and his wonderful plan of salvation. Yes, I do wish to remain on your mailing list for 1968. . . Yours in the one body." --Mrs. Chas. Kelse

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From Arkansas: "Brother Willie Murphey and family, Greetings in Jesus' great and powerful name, the name above all names, great and wonderful forever. Oh, how we ought to love and praise Him. Every day and night is Thanksgivingtime for me. He is worthy above all. I do enjoy The Mission Trail, and I do want to receive it in '68, and I wish I could hear your messages on my radio, but I can't find it yet. I do pray the Lord to continue to bless you all in your labors for Him. The Lord is so good to me. He keeps me able to do all my house work and some outside. I'll be 80 in April and have been trusting the Lord 54 years in last July. Oh, He is precious to me, such comfort and peace. Peace the world can't afford. He keeps me soul and body. I got saved in July, and in October He sanctified me. . . It all belongs to Him. . . . Remember me in prayer as I do all of you. I want to be a blessing to glorify my blessed Saviour. Your sister in the Lord," --Mrs. N. E. Adams

Are We Giving Our Best to Him?

"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." II Corinthians 8:12

From Louisiana: "Our Beloved Murphey family, We send greetings across the miles to you today. Our prayers go up continually to the throne of grace for you that God might keep you humble and pliable in his hands and use you each one mightily to the blessings of precious souls.

"We received your Christmas greetings today and wanted to return the coupon before we get so busy with other things that we forget it. We also wanted to ask that you send us two copies of your new book of poems, 'Poems of Hope and Cheer'. We are enclosing an offering to cover postage for them--sorry we do not have more to give at this time, but the Lord has been talking to our hearts about another needy cause at this time, but we are asking the Lord to increase our mite to your use in the gospel. Our hearts have been much stirred lately as we think of the sacrifice some are making for the cause of Christ--then some of us have quite a lot of this world's goods and yet we labor and fret to make another dollar and do not take time for our precious soul because we have to labor early and late to make money so we might feel secure and be somebody in the world. I know some saints that wear out their bodies to make life easier for their unsaved children and are very liberal with their means for this cause, but when it comes to the cause of Christ, they hold on to that \$. Oh, how I wish their eyes could be opened to the great need. If we put God first in our lives, He's going to get first chance at our purse strings also. I'm earnestly seeking God to show me ways where I can better manage what he supplies me with

so that I can have more to give back to him. Pray for us.

"The Lord blessed us with the privilege of attending four services of the Hammond meeting, and it was precious to our souls, especially two of the messages. Bro. Stover brought a soul-stirring message on a deeper consecration for the saints. Oh, what a timely message that was. . . We need more than ever before to spend much time with God that we might obtain grace, strength and courage. . . and yet we become so busy and so burdened with cares of this life we don't have time to visit, we don't have time to sit down and write that letter of encouragement, we don't have time to attend the meetings that we might feed our souls. . . The other message I so enjoyed was brought by our dear Sis. Abbott--'Lukewarmness'.

"I hadn't ever thought of it as really being in a backslidden condition as she brought it out, but, of course, if we are spewed out of the mouth of God we would be in a backslidden condition and that was her thought. We are living in a time of lukewarmness. We might not be spewed out yet, but we surely are in a dangerous condition. If we that call ourselves 'saints' would awaken to our need and deepen down in the Lord and live so we could have power in our lives, the. . . ministers would have more time to preach to the unsaved, and we would surely see more accomplished in the work of God. My daily prayer is that God will fill me with his love, his power, his mind and his very life that I might be qualified for whatever duty he lays upon me to do. . . Our love," --Sybil and Ben Goldsberry

Testimonies

From Arkansas: "Dear Brother Murphey and family, . . . I hope you all are well and happy and encouraged to press on for it surely is a pressing time. I am still saved and striving for a closer walk with God. Oh, he is such a wonderful Saviour who keeps us in every need if we only live for Him. I love this precious truth, the Church of God, a know-so salvation, and all the dear saints everywhere.

"Bro. Murphy Allen and daughter and son were with us last Sunday. (Bro. and Sis. Eck had gone to Kansas.) Bro. Allen preached such a good message about hearing the Word and doing something about it and not let it just leak out of our hearts. Sis. Eck preached a good message Sunday night. They had just gotten back. They were with the saints at Myrtle Sunday morning. . . Your Sis. in Christ," --Della Anschultz

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From Louisiana: "Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey, Greetings of love in Jesus' name. Today finds me encouraged to press on for the Lord. We had a good assembly meeting. I enjoyed what I was permitted to be in. I was hindered on account of sickness. The Lord is so good to me. . . I have some very special unspoken requests, so please pray the Lord to work it out to His glory. Yours in Christ,"

--Mary Bush

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From Washington: ". . . Hope you are all well and enjoying salvation. I am pretty well. Did have a bad hand. It was so sore and swollen, thought maybe a black widow spider bit me, but the Lord came to my rescue and the swelling has gone down, and it is almost well. . . Pray for me. . . With love,"

--Sister Hattie Gibson

From Arkansas: ". . . Just a few lines to let you know that I sure enjoy The Mission Trail paper. It has been a source of help and encouragement to me. The poems that especially appeal to me I clip out and save so I can read for future help and encouragement.

"May God bless you in your work. Pray for me that I may always put God first in my life, that he may get glory and honor to His name from my life. There are many things in this world that would try to hinder our spiritual progress, but I don't want to allow anything to come between the Lord and me. This is my earnest desire. . . Yours in Christ," --Mrs. Cletus Jones

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From Oklahoma: ". . . I am thankful for the truth and that I didn't get mixed up in a false doctrine. Some just don't want to see the right way. The Bible says the truth is what makes us free. . . . Love and prayers,"

--Minnie White

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From Missouri: "Dear Bro. Willie and family, Greetings to you this beautiful morning in the precious name of Jesus. We certainly have many blessings for which to be thankful. We trust you are all well, too. . . We are so thankful for the Lord's protection on a trip we made to a sister's wedding in Alabama last weekend. There was considerably heavy traffic, but He protected us every step of the way. All of the saints travel a lot, we realize, and He protects us all.

"Thank you each for the efforts you are putting forth to publish. We pray the Lord to bless your every effort and reward you. Remember us in prayer. Love,"

--David and Marilyn Cole

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From Ark.: ". . . I listen to the radio every Sunday for the program. Sincerely yours,"

--Roger Wolfe

at press time

we understand:



Bessie and Alsia Sorrell

Once again sorrow has been felt with the passing of one of God's precious children. It was on Saturday, December 2, when Sister Bessie Sorrell of Myrtle, Missouri died after a lingering illness. She was 65 years old and had suffered much from affliction in recent months, yet her faith and trust was in the Lord. One of her daughters while giving her testimony in a recent prayer meeting expressed how she felt that the example which her parents had set before them was worthy for her to follow. Indeed God needs more parents in these days who will live such a life of faith and trust for their children to follow in the truth. The funeral was scheduled to be held in the saints chapel near Myrtle on Monday, December 4 with Bro. Sam Abbott and Bro. Murphy Allen speaking at the service. Her place of burial is in the saints' cemetery nearby.

"Dear Bro. Willie, Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We are saved and happy in the Lord. We are very thankful to the good Lord for the good meeting He blessed us with when Brother Curtis Williams was here.

"We are buying a nice big lot here in Enid to build a chapel on. We pray and trust that we (the congregation of saints in Enid) will be able to reach out with the help of the Lord to bring other souls into the fold of God. We thank the Lord for the few and what He is doing for His people. . . With Christian love,"
--John and Florence Sisk, 1605 South Adams, Enid, Oklahoma 73701

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The above letter shows how God is working with His people as they move forward for Him with plans of building a new chapel. Those who can help with either labor or finances are requested to contact Bro. John Sisk. His telephone number is (405) 234-6250.

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We are especially interested in knowing how far radio station KCIJ of Shreveport, Louisiana is being heard. The Mission Trail broadcast is heard on that station each Sunday morning at 7:30. The dial setting is 980 kcs. It should cover wide areas of north La. as well as part of Texas and Arkansas.

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Response from the readers of The Mission Trail is encouraging. Many are returning the coupons which we requested they do to remain on our 1968 mailing list. If you have not already done so, please mail yours in today.



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."



Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following radio stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
WFPR	Hammond, La.	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a.m.
KCKW	Jena, La.	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.
KCIJ	Shreveport, La.	980 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Return Requested

