



# 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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## Time!

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Good morning, friends. I take it that some of you did not forget to reset your clocks to be up in time to hear the broadcast. Well, good for you. But twice during the year, once each 6 months that is, our clocks are changed an hour. During the spring like this we lose an hour as the clock is set forward and then in the autumn we gain an hour as the clock is set back to Standard time. Of course, personally, I would like to find a time which suits us and just leave the clock alone. Wouldn't you? But I guess we will have to go along with the changes that are made. If they like the fast time, I would just as soon let it all be fast, but if they like the Standard time, I

would just as soon go by that. After all, we don't change God's clock or the movement of the sun anyway. It just keeps moving day by day.

But in connection with this thought listen to this scripture, "And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:" Rev. 10:5, 6 Now, friends, isn't that a solemn declaration by this angel of God. Just think what it is going to mean when God calls a halt to all the allotted time for this world. Listen to this poem:

### TIME

We mark the silent step of Time  
With measured tread and slow,  
And hear his voiceless, clanking chime  
On walls of long ago.

When Time was young, his step was gay,  
His form was lithe and fair;  
But now his locks are turning grey,  
His brow is knit with care.

We hear him whisper of the past  
With voiceless bated breath;  
Yes; Time is growing old at last  
And soon will end in death.

In I Cor. 7:29 we find these words, "But this I say, brethren, the time is short". Do you suppose if we knew just exactly how much time we had left to live down here below that we would change our ways? Do you suppose we would do differently? I am quite sure that there are some who have unfinished business which they would want to look after and I am not speaking primarily of earthly business affairs either. I believe there would be some that would want to make some changes in the way they are living, that is if they knew they were on the brink of eternity. Now this verse said that time is short. It didn't say just how short. It didn't say how many years, months, and days, or even hours and minutes we had left. But I will say this, even though we lived to be a hundred years old when it is past it has only been a short time. In other words it seems as but yesterday. Psa. 90:12 says, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Then the 4th verse of this same chapter says, "For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

To those of you who get the printed copies of The Mission Trail I want you to pay particular attention to this drawing of "Father Time". You notice that he has a long flowing beard which indicates he is very very old. You see, time has been around here for many many years. Notice also the horn which he has. I suppose this would be used to signal the end of time, or perhaps the end of someone's life, or something like this. Then there is in his left hand the old sickle such as was used many years ago to cut grass, or harvest the grain. To me this indicates the harvest time or the ending of the growth season. I am very much afraid

that with some it is going to be like that scripture says here in Jer. 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Then there is the hour glass which is hung from the waist of "Father Time". This is the instrument that was used to tell time back there in the ancient past somewhere. As the sand would trickle out of one compartment down into the compartment below this would indicate the passing of time. Then at the end of each hour the glass would be inverted; the ends would be changed, giving the sand a fresh start to trickle into the empty compartment below. I suppose in this way it kept someone pretty constantly watching the glass to see that time didn't stop on them. They sure enough would be late to church in a case like that, wouldn't they?

For the people of God here is a warning to which we should give heed. It is found in Eph. 5:16, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." What do you think that means, "Redeeming the time"? It surely doesn't mean that we can go back and live our days over again, does it? Well, I wouldn't think so. We know better than this, although there are some things we would surely love to do differently had we the opportunity to do so. But I believe it means to make the best use of the time we have left. Use it wisely. Accomplish something for God and for lost souls with your time. Do you remember that verse in I Cor. 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I would say that would be redeeming the time. I remember a little piece of poetry from my early days which I learned. It says,

"Count that day lost,  
Whose low descending sun,

Views from thy hand,  
No worthy action done. "

One of my favorite topics for preaching is "What time is it?" When Kathleen, Patsy, and I were visiting in the planetarium in Chicago some years ago they remembered this favorite topic of mine, so in looking over the ancient forms of telling time there in the planetarium they called my attention to a caption concerning some of those time pieces which said exactly what I had already been saying, "What time is it?" Dear ones, let me remind you again that the time is short for you to do what you should be doing. Our time to evangelize the world is fast coming to a close. The time to reach the lost with the word of God is now. It may be too late sooner than we think.

Listen, I want you to hear this: Do you hear this clock ticking in the background? That was the clock set near the microphone when Kathleen and I were visiting the dear ones in Jamaica last Sept. Do you hear that ticking while this brother is praying? Can you imagine your life as having an expiration date on it, so to speak? Then let me remind you, friends, your time and mine is limited.

Now, I don't want you to do what Judas did after Jesus said these words to him. But Jesus said to Judas, "That thou doest, do quickly." You see, Judas betrayed the Lord and bargained with the elders for 30 pieces of silver. But I will say this, What thou doest, do quickly.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Help us to redeem the time because the days are evil. May we spend it

wisely and in a way that will bring the favor and pleasure of God upon our lives. Bless each listener of the broadcast in a very special way this day and thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Many thanks to those who help us keep the broadcast going forth over the air from week to week. If you desire to write us you may do so by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. Here is a song, "A child of the King". The singers are Bob Forbes, Randall Flynn, Melvin Doolittle and Dale Doolittle.

Until we meet again 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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## Testimonies

From Kansas: "Looks like it may rain some more today. Some people say the farmer is a gambler but I don't think he is. He ignorantly is trusting a little bit in God. If not why does he plant the seed in the earth? If only all the farmers and others would go all out for God it could be a wonderful place to live." --C. A. Stone

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From Miss.: "Mother and I are still enjoying the little Mission Trail paper. We enjoy the testimonies and letters. I never stop till I have read them all. Mother really enjoys listening to me read. Her birthday will be the 1st day of Aug. She will be 91. I'm so happy to have her with me. We have lived alone now for 5 years. Well, the weather here in Miss. is beautiful, but after having so much cold rain and bad weather it's really hot and dusty now, and the farmers are getting their cotton planted. . . ." --Grace Gill

From Colo. : "Greetings of Christian love to each of you and the readers of The Mission Trail. I am glad to report victory thru the blood of Jesus and for his wonderful love and mercy to us. We are glad to receive the Mission Trail each week. It is an encouragement to us for the truth you put out in it and for all the testimonies. We love the old fashioned way of holiness and by the help and grace of God plan to walk in it until our Lord says it is enough come up higher. Enclosed is small offering for the work. We need your prayers. May God bless you is our prayer. In Christian love,"

--Ed and Addie McEndree

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From Okla. : "To the dear saints and readers of the Mission Trail, First of all I want to thank my Saviour for being saved from sin through the mighty power of God, and then also for the great healing power through his plan of redemption to a poor human mortal like me that got so poor and frail in his body. I got down to just a little over 100 lbs. Now I have already gained back to 120 lbs. I can't thank my Lord enough for the touch of the Master's hand. I have to roll out of bed at night and beg the Lord to please accept my thanksgiving. And to all the dear bro. and sis. in the Lord and saints far and near I want to thank each and every one of you that got in the battle with me and for all your prayers, beautiful cards, letters, telephone calls and visits. They mean so much to anyone down flat on his back. May the dear Lord bless you each one a hundred fold and give you a touch when you need one too. I could say lot more but I feel I have taken enough space. Please continue to remember us in burdens and we will you. Your bro. and sis. for the truth of his gospel,"

--Waldo Eck

From Okla. : "I am glad that all can be saved. It is free to all, but there are such a few that want salvation. They have no time for the Lord but there is a time coming to every soul that all they'll need is God. I don't want to wait till that time to call upon him. . . I'm not feeling very well this morning, but slept pretty well last night. I have to sleep in a recliner, can't lie down at all day or night. Why, I don't know, but the Lord knows. Am still looking to the Lord for my healing. I know he is able if it is his will. We still enjoy the Mission Trail. May the Lord continue to bless your work. I thank all the saints here and every where for their prayers for my healing. I haven't been in this battle alone. Am remembering all the other afflicted ones too. We are living in trying times. Love and prayers,"

--Sis. Minnie White

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From Ga. : "I am here again, praise the Lord. Happy to say I thank the dear Lord for what he has done for me. Well, he did so much for me I just can't find words to express my gratefulness to him as I desire. Well he healed my body so many times and blessed me to reach the age of 88 years. My birthday was April 8 and unexpectedly presents began coming in and this week others come and that with many more promises. I thank the good Lord for his wonderful way of bringing us out. I have done some real suffering. Now I am happy the rain is gone. The beautiful sunshine, the flowers and green grass, the birds-- . . . Oh, how I enjoy the handiworks of our Lord, our keeper, our all. Enclosed small offering. I really enjoy this little paper . . . I don't hear the broadcast but enjoy the Trail. God bless each one. My love and prayer for the success of the work." --Sis. Elizabeth McNair

From Kansas: "Here is a little offering to help you in your work and may God bless you in your work. I have been putting this off for sometime. I said some day when it is raining I will take time to write. It is raining today, it is very welcome, getting very dry. Sometimes we get a little impatient about the rain when it gets so dry, but God knows our needs better than we do. I have some trouble breathing. There are times it is hard for me to get my breath. I have asked God to take this trouble from me and to help me to be willing to take things his way . . . I would like your prayers that God might touch my body that I might be stronger in both soul and body, and that I would live so that I would be a help . . . to others." --Forrest Norcutt

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From Ore.: "Greeting to you all. Been a while since I wrote, but nevertheless you all are in my thoughts and prayers real often. The purpose of writing this time is that Violet asked me or rather I offered and she asked if I would let you know their new address so the Mission Trail can be still coming to them . . . Last Sunday we went up there and was getting the last minute things done before going to service in Gladstone. We looked out across the street, or rather the road, and saw a house smoking. The neighbors grabbed a hose and ran over. My menfolks grabbed a hose and went running over. I was standing at the large window observing all and I was thrilled to see how people responded to the need. Cars driving on the road stopped and people ran to see what they could do. People went in and began to pull out the furniture and other things to keep them from getting water soaked while others were busy with the water. Soon the firemen arrived (volunteer from the country) and they put the fire out. . . I saw men dressed in their

Sunday suits and white shirts. My own menfolks had on white shirts and suits and getting wet, but all worked to save the house and the furniture. I couldn't help but admire those who paid no heed to their own clothes. Some were in everyday clothes and young boys, but all were working together. I thought this is the way the Church of God looks to the world when we are all busy working for one another, not paying heed to ourselves, but giving of our best to one another. It was a beautiful example of working together and presented a lasting beautiful thought in the minds of the observers. The house was saved . . .'

--Sis. Margaret Cable

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From Pa.: "Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus! We do praise God for this lovely day in which we live. It was so sunny and bright and the cool breeze kept the heat from being too much for us to enjoy the day. God is so good to us and sends the lovely birds and flowers of spring time. I do love spring time with all the newness of nature and anyone can see God's hand in it. My aunt is here helping with Mother. I had my son and his family visit me over Fri. to Sun. Easter weekend. I stood too long on my cement floor and stove my knees. Can hardly walk. I am used to going in a run most of the time, so I guess God is trying to get me to slow down and take some care of my body. Our old bodies do get weaker as we get older, so have to walk instead of run now. My knees have pained me so badly, but God saw fit to make them feel better. Praise His Name! Mother is still doing fine for her age. She sits and reads all the time. I took her out in the car today. We had a nice ride while I did the business I needed to do. Praise the Lord. He is so good to watch over us and care for us." --Sis. Eva Cox

