



# 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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## Purity

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"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3

Good morning, friends. I hope things are going well for you today. But above other things I trust that you are prospering in spiritual growth and keeping encouraged in the Lord. After all, these are the most important things in life. You see, some of these days our troubles and trials in this world will be over. So when that time comes we are looking forward to a better place which the Lord hath prepared for those who love him.

Now notice especially this last verse, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I am sure this doesn't mean that we can be perfect in every respect for as long as we are in the body we are subject to mistakes. But I do believe that we can and should have purity of heart. Don't you remember what Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount? "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Now if it wasn't possible for our heart to be purified I don't believe Jesus would have said that, do you? How about these verses here in Acts 15:8, 9, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness,

giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Well, we ought to have 3 witnesses anyway concerning purity of heart, so listen to this one from I Tim. 1:5, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned".

But there is one thing sure. Folks who trust in their own self-righteousness are not going to have pure hearts. There was the Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray. He thought of himself as righteous. He no doubt sought to secure the favor of both God and man by the manner in which he prayed. He mentioned in his prayer the good deeds which he did. He said he fasted twice in a week and gave tithes of all that he possessed. He seemed to be satisfied with a religion that only cleaned up the outside of his life. He was filled with self-righteousness, the fruit of his own work, and was judging by a human standard.

One of the characteristics of a person

who is self-righteous is to despise others. You see, he was judging himself by another man, the Publican. He felt that he was far superior to this poor publican who would not even so much as lift up his eyes to heaven to pray. Do you suppose the publican didn't feel worthy to enter into the devotion which others may have been offering there at the temple? I don't suppose he was praying to be heard of men. He was calling directly on God. "God be merciful to me a sinner". He didn't compare himself with others. He was seeking the pardon and peace which only God could give. I believe God blessed him. It is said that this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.

Here is another scripture which speaks of purity. This has to do with the purity of the soul. Listen, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." I Peter 1:22

I believe when the Lord purifies our hearts through faith not only is our soul clean and our heart clean, but he gives a pure mind and conscience to go along with it. Some folks put on a mighty good appearance outwardly. They may have clean clothes, polished shoes, and combed hair, and still have a filthy mind. Listen to this verse, "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." I Cor. 2:16 Do you think anyone who had the mind of Christ would have any other but a pure mind? The Apostle Peter in his writing puts it this way, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance". II Peter 3:1

Friends, it is a great blessing to have a pure heart, a pure mind, a pure soul, and then to go with all these things, a pure conscience. Listen to the testimony of Paul in his letter to Timothy, "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with a pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;" II Tim. 1:3

Friends, did you know the Bible even speaks about a pure language? I don't believe this is referring to pure English, pure Spanish, or pure German, but listen, "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." Zeph. 3:9 I believe that God understands all languages. This even includes the unwritten language spoken by the uncivilized tribes in the remote areas of the world. God knows that language. And another thing he knows too. He knows if a person has purity of heart, soul, and speech. Here is one more scripture in closing. It shows that even the thoughts of God's children are good ones, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8 Notice that verse says to "think on these things". Wouldn't that be pure thoughts? Listen to this poem:

#### THE PURE TESTIMONY

The pure testimony, put forth in the Spirit,  
Cuts like a sharp two-edged sword;  
And hypocrites now are most sorely  
tormented,

Because they're condemned by the  
Word.  
The pure testimony discovers the  
cross,  
While wicked professors make light  
of the cross,  
And Babylon trembles for fear of her  
loss.

The time is now come for the church  
to be gathered  
Into the one Spirit of God.  
Baptized by one Spirit into the one  
body,  
Partaking Christ's flesh and his  
blood,  
They drink in one Spirit, which makes  
them all see  
They're one in Christ Jesus,  
wherever they be,  
The Jew and the Gentile, the bond  
and the free.

Then, blow ye the trumpet, in pure  
testimony,  
And let the world hear it again.  
Oh! come ye from Babylon, Egypt,  
and Sodom,  
And make your way over the plain;  
Come wash all your robes in the blood  
of the Lamb,  
And walk in the Spirit through Christ  
Jesus' name;  
Through the pure testimony you will  
overcome.

The world will not persecute those  
who are like them,  
But hold them the same as their own;  
The pure testimony cries out  
separation,  
Which causes false teachers to frown.  
Come out from foul spirits and  
practises too,  
The track of your Savior keep still  
in your view;  
The pure testimony will cut its way  
through.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Bless the words of the message as it  
goes out over the airwaves. May it  
profit those who hear and may the word  
of God purify their hearts through faith  
in Christ. Remember those who are  
passing through the deep waters of  
trials or persecutions. Comfort and  
strengthen them to be true to thee for  
we ask it in Jesus name. Amen

Thank you, friends, for the opportunity  
to come into your homes or automobiles  
by means of radio another time. If the  
message has proven a blessing to you  
we would be so happy to hear from you.  
You may write us by addressing your  
letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie,  
Okla. And now this song by the Car-  
vers, "How sweet is my rest."

Until we meet again this is Willie Mur-  
phey saying may God's richest bless-  
ings be with each of you and a very  
cheerful good-bye!

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"He brought me up also out of an hor-  
rible pit, out of the miry clay, and set  
my feet upon a rock, and established  
my goings. And he put a new song in  
my mouth." Psalms 40:2, 3

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## *Testimonies*

From Ill. : "Greetings and love in Je-  
sus name! I do hope this finds you all  
well and encouraged to press on. We  
must endure (last, overcome, persist)  
to the end if we would be saved. Many  
have started who will never finish this  
race. All too many have fallen by the  
wayside. I surely want to endure to the  
end! It's been some time since I last  
wrote to you. My husband will be home  
from the hospital 5 weeks tomorrow.  
. . . He has never been completely free

from pain and he is getting so tired of pain. . . Please continue to remember him in your prayers, and request prayer for him. I need your prayers too, for grace and strength and wisdom in this trying time. I surely want to please God in all things and I need Him so much to lean on in this dark place. God has been good to provide our needs and I thank Him! I have proved one thing, it's impossible to outgive God! The more we give, the more He returns! I've found it so! 'Give, and it shall be given you, good measure, pressed down and running over.' What a joy it is to give, and what a privilege! And God loveth a cheerful giver! Can you imagine anyone with the real love of God in their heart begrudging? Better to keep all for self than to begrudge and give. (I wouldn't want to do either of those things.) The Mission Trails are a blessing to me. . . I appreciate your work and effort for the Lord."

--Sis. Thelma Sprague, 219 N. Hickory St., DuQuoin, Ill. 62832

(Saints, remember in earnest prayer this family. A card or letter of encouragement might also help. --WCM)

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From La.: "Greetings of love to you today in the name of Jesus. This finds us happy to be saved and encouraged to press onward for the Lord. He has been so good to us. We do trust the Lord has been helping you also. . . Do pray for us as we have some burdens."

--Doyle and Cynthia LaCroix

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From La.: "Dear ones in the name of Jesus I send my love to each who so diligently put their shoulder to the wheel get the Mission Trail over miles to each of us. I so enjoy the paper. It is a very source of encouragement to me at times when it seems I need it most. . . I'm thankful to report I am

still saved, that God has shown mercy unto me and I can be his child. I often think what do people do who have not known the Lord well enough to take their burdens, trials, and tests before the Lord. I have been rather nervous since the strain of caring for Wayne. . . My physician is still the same as I have had for years. So thankful can go anytime, day or nite and not have to wait in line to be heard. My desire is to always be worthy of what God has done and is doing and I don't want to complain. He knows what is best and will not allow anything to happen only what is for my good. Trust your family is all well. I aim to keep on the firing line and to do the will of God. I need your prayers. Love,"

--Sis. Marie Miller

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From Mo.: "Am thanking the good Lord in protecting us from the hail storm last night. Thousands of dollars damage in Joplin, many windows broken, perhaps roofs damaged too. It hailed here, but do not know of any damage. I was praying as no doubt all the saints were too. The Lord is so good to us. Am glad to help some on your program. I pray the Lord to bless to the salvation of souls. In Christian love," --Sis. Lula Caughron

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From Mo.: "Words won't ever tell all that he has done and is doing for us. As the poet has said the half has never yet been told. We really enjoy the broadcast and the Mission Trail paper. We have been having some nice spring showers of rain which was much needed. We have been reading Bros. D. S. Warner's and C. E. Orr's books. They are sure spiritual food to our souls. May the Lord ever bless you and supply all your needs. Yours for the whole truth,"

--Bro. Farmer and Sis. Ellen Wilson

## "The Blessed"

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6

These are the words of our perfect example as he taught the disciples and the multitudes while he was in the mountain. Let us examine them a little more closely than usual. First we notice that these particular folks are going to receive a blessing. Who is it that does not like to be favored? Oh, the ungratitude of many who receive untold blessings and are yet ungrateful. But not so with these who hunger and thirst after righteousness! For they are going to be filled. Surely the Lord wants to fill every soul with the good things of God. But how impossible this is when one is filled with his own ways and is not seeking to know or do God's will.

This verse in Proverbs is so typical of our present day and time, "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself." It is rather difficult to interest someone in something better when he is satisfied with what he has. A number of years ago when the automobile industry was in its infancy, it was a great thing to whizz through the country over the dusty roads at the rate of 30 miles an hour in an old model "T" Ford car. It seemed that the miles just passed so quickly. And indeed, they did for a fact. It was so much better than the "hack" drawn by the slow-moving horse who continually wanted to stop and graze the grass along the road. But who of us now would be content to ride in the model "T" and spend a half day in going the distance which is often covered within a few minutes? Then,

too, the rattles and noises of the engine did not seem to annoy nearly so much for the passengers had the realization they were traveling at a good rate of speed. Sometimes mud-holes often delayed the trip and the men folks took time out to hunt up logs and poles to pry with in an effort to free the "horseless" carriage that it might be able to continue its journey along the almost impassable roads.

Think how unwilling we would now be to go back some forty years in the progress of automobiles and the building of highways! Just as it is only natural to have a longing for something better in a material way, we should not be satisfied until we have the very best God has for us. And may I state that there is an abundance of grace to keep us in the trying times in which we live. God's grace is sufficient for the needs of our day. I do not believe God's way is out-dated and obsolete but it is good for this present generation, if they will sincerely seek for his ways.

To increase your appetite for spiritual things consider this verse, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16 Please notice that there was rest promised to these souls who sought for the old paths and the good way.

Jeremiah, this "weeping prophet" had this to say in the 29th chapter, 13th and 14th verse, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord. . . ." Great are the promises for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

