

THE MISSION TRAIL
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Number 4165

. . . A very warm greeting to all the saints and my friends who are in tune with The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Oklahoma. I am real pleased to come into your home or your automobile as you drive along the highways to have another short visit with you.

In fact, some have mentioned how this broadcast was just like having a visit with me and my family. One disadvantage, of course, is the fact that I am unable to hear you when you would like to speak back to me, but there is one way you could let me know if you are with me on these weekly visits each Friday night, and that is to pick up a pen and write me a few lines and express your sentiments about the broadcast. Let me assure you that those letters which we receive are given personal and prompt attention. By all means continue to pray that God will send forth laborers into his harvest, and that He will bless those who are doing their best for Him!

The time has come when we should not wait to see what others are going to do, but we should do ourselves that which the Spirit of God leads us to do. Too often we think we will get around to doing certain things we would like to do "at a more convenient season." No promise is given that such a time will ever come.

Now, this brings me to our text for today found in II Corinthians 10:12. "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

Altogether too often does one compare himself with others which he sets up as a standard and because of this comparison, he goes away with a feeling of self-satisfaction, when in reality, the basis of his comparison is not justified.

Most people like to be considered wise, but here is one thing which has to be constantly guarded against, and the scriptures teach us that those who allow themselves to do this are not wise.

Unto certain which "trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others," Christ spoke the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. Luke 18:9. The Pharisee went up to the temple to pray, not because he felt himself to be a sinner and in need of pardon, but to secure the esteem and respect of those around him. His worship was prompted by self-interest. He was full of self-praise. This shown forth in the manner in which he approached God and also in his words.

"God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are--" Thus he began his prayer by the comparison of himself with others. He noted their failures and faults, and in doing so, this seemed to make his good deeds all the more righteous. The failures and sins of one does not justify disobedience in another. God does not excuse us because others have failed to give heed to his call. It is not necessary to degrade others in order to elevate ourselves. For in so doing we are not wise. "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Samuel 16:7.

