



The Mission Trail

Box 99

Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Willie C. Murphey • Frances E. Murphey • Kathleen E. Murphey

"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

VOL. 6 NO. 4

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 13, 1970

Do You Choose Jesus or Barabbas?

Radio Broadcast for week of February 8, 1970 (See back page for list of stations.)

Good morning, friends. It is good to be coming your way another time by means of radio. We hope that today finds each of you pressing onward in the Christian race, expecting God to give you grace for every problem and needs which may arise. Thanks so much to those who have written telling us that they enjoy the broadcast and receive a blessing from it. I hope the Spirit of God will work with the message to make it effective in winning souls, encouraging believers, and that all of us may be mutually benefitted.

Perhaps most of you realize that we are certainly living in perilous times. Uncertainties exist all around us. There are wars, and rumors of wars, commotions, disturbances, riots, and marches, so we don't quite know what to look for next. But when these things are taking place it is mighty good to know the word of God to turn to, and find the comfort and strength which we need in these trying days.

Listen to these words from Rom. the 8th chapter and beginning with verse 35, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God,

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The question in this case is not, Who shall separate the love of Christ from us? or prevent Christ from loving us? But, who shall separate us from the love of Christ. Or we might say, who or what shall be able to remove our affections for him? Even the questions which follow this one go on to point out some of the things such as tribulations, or distress which might affect us but it is a sure thing that Christ's love for us is not affected by these things. His love is constant and sure. It is ever enduring. But the question is how firm and secure is our love for Him?

Notice some of these things. Here is mentioned tribulations. This might be a grievous affliction or distress of any kind. It means to compress or oppress or be in a strait place, or anything by which a man is rendered miserable. Have you ever been in a miserable place? Well, I have. Then it mentions distress, a word of nearly the same import as the former, but more intense in its signification. It

means straitness, being hemmed in on every side without the possibility of getting out or escaping.

We might say the children of Israel were distressed when they came to the Red Sea with apparently no way of crossing and the Egyptian soldiers behind them. But wait a moment, let me give this to you directly from the scriptures. Perhaps it will have more meaning to you. "And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Ex. 14:10-14 Now wouldn't you say these folks were distressed? They surely were. In fact they were distressed to the point that it seems their trust was greatly shaken in the leadership of Moses and the direction of the Lord. But not so with Moses. He told them to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. And sure enough they did that very day.

But back to our scripture in Romans. Persecution takes on the form of the act of persuing, to press upon, and

signifies such persuing as an enemy uses in order to overtake the object of his malice that he may destroy him. It is certainly a known fact the object of Satan is to destroy the church, and waste it, as he did through Saul before his conversion. The church was persecuted and the saints were persued and overtaken. Are things like these going to cause your love for Christ to diminish?

And then the scripture goes on to mention famine which would include the total want of bread and all the necessary things of life. And here we find the word nakedness which implies to be absolutely without clothing, or just to have one's limbs only, being totally unclothed. Now most of us have never reached that point in life, to have been deprived completely of all clothing.

Then there is peril, a state of extreme and continued danger, perplexing and distressing with grievous foreboding and alarm, which excites anguish because much evil is felt and much more feared. Now it is possible that one might face all of these deprivations until they come to some of these things mentioned in this chapter a little further on.

How about the sword which is a symbol of total destruction of life and especially beheading and such like, done by the order of the civil magistrate. This word sword signifies the authority and power which is used to terminate life by inflicting capital punishment. And certainly, dear ones, things such as these are no more than we may naturally expect from the present condition of the world and the positive predictions of the prophets who foresaw that a wicked world would always persecute and oppress the true followers of God.

Now, is your love still warm for Christ? Are you still willing and ready to follow him even to Gethsemane? Let us not be like the multitude which cried out upon the trial of Christ when they said give us Barabbas. Oh, no, let us have Christ at any cost. May we be willing to suffer persecution, trials, famine, or whatever may come our way in order that we may please Him. Listen once again to the words of the apostle as he said, "Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Here is a poem which says:

JESUS, I'LL GO THROUGH WITH THEE.

I have made my choice forever;
I will walk with Christ my Lord;
Naught from him my soul can
sever,
While I'm trusting in his Word.
I the lonely way have taken,
Rough and toilsome though it be,
And although despised, forsaken,
Jesus, I'll go through with thee.

Though the garden lies before me,
And the scornful judgment hall;
Though the gloom of deepest
midnight
Settles round me like a pall,
Darkness can affright me never;
From thy presence shadows flee;
And if thou wilt guide me ever,
Jesus, I'll go through with thee.

Though the earth may rock and
tremble,
Though the sun may hide its face,
Though my foes be strong and
ruthless,
Still I dare to trust thy grace;
Though the cross my path o'ershadow,
Thou didst bear it once for me,

And whate'er the pain or peril,
Jesus, I'll go through with thee.

When the conflict here is ended,
And the weary journey done;
When the last grim foe is conquered,
And the final victory won;
When the pearly gates swing open,
And an entrance full and free
Shall be granted to the victors, --
Jesus, I'll go through with thee.

Shall we pray,

Oh, Lord,

For the love which Christ manifested to us we are forever grateful. We seek thy divine assistance and guidance that our love maybe unfeigned for thee. Help us to love you, not in word only, but in sincerity and truth, proving it by our lives until the very last day we spend on earth. Bless each listener of the broadcast in the way they need most and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Thanks for taking the time to listen to our short message concerning God's love for us and what our love should be for him. We hope that you will listen again next Sunday at this same time on this same station for another broadcast of The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Okla. Your speaker has been Willie Murphey. If you have enjoyed it, we would be pleased to hear from you and if we may be of further help to you be sure to let us know. Here is a song, "The Son hath made me free." The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver, Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

Dear ones, until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may God's richest blessings be with each and every one of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

Testimonies

From Calif. : "Greetings in the precious name of our blessed Lord who redeemed us from our sins and made us fit for heaven. Praise his dear name. I am sending you this little donation for the broadcast or the family's needs and as I have been on the sick list since Jan. 5th and am just able to be around my room will not write much this time, but praying God's blessing on you both and the broadcast. Pray for me."

--Sis. Flossie Atha

--o--

SORE AFFLICTION

If I do not see the healing, my Lord, I ask for grace that I in sore affliction may see thy blessed face. That I might look to thee, Lord, and trust thee more and more; and know thou makest blessings of my afflictions sore. For great indeed are blessings when thine own Word I heed, and turn to thee and trust Thee to fill my every need. The healing of our bodies can make our bodies whole, but sore affliction worketh great healing of the soul. So in my sore affliction I pray to ever be a trusting and obedient child, for then thou healest me. Child of God, do you complain because you have to bear certain afflictions? Are you bitter toward God for the ordering of His providence? Far too often we look only at what men are doing to us, instead of what God is saying to us by means of trials. God's purpose is always good. Happy is the person who believes that. Happiness does not lie in the mere absence of pain. A person can be very sick even though he does not have any pain. Physically, happiness lies in health, in wholeness of body. Spiritually, happiness lies in health of soul. When once you have understood that God was busy making you whole in your heart

and mind by means of His chastisements, you will bless His name for inflicting pain. Deep down in your soul you will be happy. The connection between human guilt and divine purpose is a deep mystery. But if we can accept chastening from our earthly fathers, and in later years count ourselves happy because we were spanked, shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live? He corrects us to make us whole again.

--Sel. by Sis. S. E. Abbott

--o--

From Okla. : "Greetings in Jesus name. I love Jesus, he does so much for me. I have sung songs this morning about Jesus and what he is to mankind. The saints sang this song one evening in the assembly meeting and how beautiful it was as it fell to the sound of my hearing. Song:

'Tis the sweetest name that the angels know,

'Tis the sweetest name here on earth below,

'Tis the sweetest name, and I love it so;

Tell it out to all the world that name is Jesus.

'Tis the sweetest name that all heaven sings,

And the dearest name that to mankind clings;

Oh, that sweetest name full salvation brings;

Tell it out to all the world that name is Jesus.

Oh, that sweetest name gives from sin release,

In the vale of sighs bids my sorrow cease;

'Tis the sweetest name, for it brings us peace; . . .

O, how wonderful. May God's richest blessing rest upon the broadcast is my prayer, with Thanksgiving in Jesus name."

--Sis. Eva Penner

From Ore.: "I greet you in Jesus' dear name. So thankful for all the Lord has done for me. As far as I can tell I am completely over my stroke and the Lord has touched some other afflictions I had too. I truly do thank him for all he has done for me. And we have had a very nice winter so far, no snow and the weather hasn't been very cold either, had lots of rain but that is our natural weather in Oregon in winter time. Sis. Adelia Davis is better than she was at Christmas and they have moved her to a rest home in Seattle, Wash. . . Sis. Locker has been pretty sick the last 2 weeks. Remember her in prayer. The rest of saints are about as usual. We never had any rain today and it isn't raining tonight. The Lord is my light and my salvation: Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1"

--Sis. Emma Busch

--o--

From South Carolina: 'This finds me still pressing on to make heaven. I sure do enjoy reading the little Mission Trail paper. When I read something good from the word of God I want some one else to read it too. When I get through reading them I want someone else to have them so I pass them to others that they may read them too. I want to be found doing something for the Lord when He comes back for His faithful few. I am praying to the Lord that He will bless you in that work you are doing because the people in this world are standing in need of the full gospel. So I am willing to help in any way that God sees is best in helping to spread it. If the Lord lets me live throughout this new year by His help I want to do more for Him than I did last year. So I desire your prayers that God will ever keep me standing for the one Church of God whose builder and maker is God.'

--Eddie Driggers

From La.: "Warm greetings of love to each of you in the most precious name of Jesus. We are thankful for His love in our hearts this morn. and His peace abiding in our soul. There is not much peace in the world today. I was just reading in the Jan. 30th Mission Trail the scripture in II Tim. 3. Don't we see that scripture being fulfilled on every hand today? Oh, if people could only realize how near the coming of Jesus is and the awful things that are in store for them, surely there would be more turning to God. I notice that even the little children are not as tender and do not fear God as children did just a few short years ago. We look forward to the Mission Trail each week and I especially enjoyed the message in the last one "The Power of God". It surely takes much praying, much watchfulness and being wide awake if we keep that power in our lives today, for the enemy comes in such cunning ways to try and catch us napping . . . You know we don't have to be sound asleep to miss many of the blessings of God. We can just be drowsy and our minds not be alert and the devil can wedge in something to hinder us in being at our best. . . Our son, Michael, is in Germany--he has been quite homesick and asked us to pray much for him for he said he really needs it. Bro. Murphy Allen is to be in Shreveport tonight and have meeting through next Sun. We are looking forward to being with them Sun. I haven't been in meeting much this winter. . . We are holding you dear ones and your labors up before the Lord each day, that He might bless and lead you in all things. We want to see the work of God prosper and we know that each one of us must pray much and do all we can if we are to see the church moving on in these evil days."

--Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

