



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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The Goodness and Severity of God - - Part 1

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Good morning, friends. It is a pleasure to be coming your way again. I am glad that we have the everlasting word of God to bring you. You know, the scriptures say heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not pass away. And again there is a verse which says thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my pathway. So that is what we have to bring you today. Our God is a god of love and yet he is one of justice and severity. Listen to this verse, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." Romans 11:22

First, then let us consider the goodness and mercy of God. Has the Lord been merciful to you? Perhaps you can think back on your life of times when God's mercy was shown and he answered prayer for you. Psalms 52 and verse 8 and 9 goes like this, "But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done it: and I will wait on thy name; for it is good before thy saints." And then in Psalms 119 and verse 64 it says, "The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes."

In speaking of the mercy of God listen to this verse from Psa. 107:21, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Then going on down and beginning with verse 27 we find these words, "They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and

he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." . . .

Now remember we are speaking about the mercy of God. Psa. 108 and verse 4 says, "For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds." And in I Peter 1 and 3 we find these words, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". And again in Eph. 2:4, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us".

Do you know something? All the mercy and blessings which we get come from God. There is a verse which says, "Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the

Father of lights, with whom is no variability neither shadow of turning." And this 3rd verse of the first chapter of II Cor. is real good too. It says, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort".

Well, someone might want to know if God is all that merciful how does he manifest his mercy to us? Now, let me show you. He does it in many ways.

In Psa. 130 and verse 7 and 8 it says, "Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities." Did you know that the Lord gives every one of us life and breath? In Acts 17: 25 the Apostle Paul tells us so. He says, "Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things". And Jesus declared how God was concerned about us in Matt. 6 and beginning with verse 25, "Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" and then he goes on to mention the lilies of the field and that even Solomon was not arrayed like one of these. But I would say one of the high points of his thoughts presented in this chapter is brought out in verse 33 when he said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Listen to this poem:

The Goodness of God

We sometimes look with grateful heart
O'er widening fields and leafy wood;
The babbling brooks kind thoughts
impart
And seem to tell us "God is good."
Upon the righteous and unjust
He sendeth oft refreshing rain;
The pure in heart, the sin-accursed,
All gather in the ripened grain.

The heart of man by sin accursed
Sees naught but gall and bitterness.
The cooling brooks oft quench their
thirst;
Their lips no grateful words confess.
While bound in heart by sinful chains,
They can not sound one note of praise;
Their heart a desert waste remains,
While care and trouble crown their
days.

The secrets of a Father's love
He gives to those who fear his name.
In trials sore we look above
And prove his grace in furnace flame.
'Tis safe to trust in his strong arm,
And hymn his grace that can not fail;
The trusting heart feels no alarm,
But sings his grace when storms
prevail.

The glorious sun sheds forth his rays
And gladdens every child of earth,
The while our hearts are filled with
praise
For him who gave us heavenly birth.
He lifts us from the depth of sin,
And makes our hearts as white as
snow;
We're drinking at that crystal stream
Where life and peace and glory flow.

Shall we spend a moment in prayer,

Our father which art in heaven,
We acknowledge thee as the giver of

all good gifts. We are grateful for thy words and for the knowledge of salvation brought to us by the word and by the spirit. Bless each listener of the broadcast today with a very special blessing in the way which they need most. Keep us for thyself alone and to thee we will give the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

I want to continue with the topic of God's mercy and his severity on at least one more broadcast following this one, so be sure to tune in again next Sunday at this same time on this same station. May I take just a moment to remind you that this message is brought your way weekly by The Mission Trail of Guthrie, Okla. Your speaker is Willie Murphey. If you are not already on the mailing list write for the weekly copies of the messages. There is no cost or obligation and no subscription price. We appreciate the prayers and offerings of those who make it possible for us to send forth the gospel by means of radio.

Here is our song, "Your roses may have thorns." The singers are Ostis Wilson, Maybelle Pruitt, Marie Miles, and yours truly, Willie Murphey.

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!

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Testimonies

From N. M.: "Still love to read the paper for all the help we do get in reading it and encouragement to keep pressing on to the mark of the prize of high calling in Christ Jesus. He was so very precious to me when I had the flu lately and do thank and praise Him for every things."

--Sis. Ruth Doolittle

From Okla.: "I am doing pretty good at present. Hope you all are fine and enjoying the best of health. I am not enjoying the best of health but I thank the dear Lord it isn't any worse. I am still looking up to the Lord for healing. Pray much for me soul and body."

--Sis. Mary May

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From Ore.: "I am praising God for salvation. I am in the fiery furnace. My arthritis is giving me a lot of pain. I can hardly walk with my walker and besides that my son has been very sick . . . The Lord is keeping me here for some purpose and He got me in the furnace to burn out all the dross, so please stand by me in prayer that I get the benefit and the Lord the glory. . . The Lord has permitted me to be isolated a lot of my life but it is good sometime for the saints to be isolated from the saints to let your light shine. . . One old lady here is 94 years old, a bed-fast patient most of the time. She sent for me to come and pray for her. . . We repeat the 23 Psalm and what they call the Lord's prayer together. She can sing so nice or did before she got helpless. Well, I feel so helpless. I tell some that if the Lord withholds our next breath we are gone. I know if I can be of any help to anyone, it's from the Lord, so pray that these trials may get me closer to the Lord. There is so much to be done and so few qualified to do. . . I know my time is growing short at the longest. I'll soon be 89 years old. The Lord has given me a long life. I have lived longer than father or mother or any of their family, only one sister left. She is the youngest of the family. Well, I felt like I wanted to talk to some of the saints. I just got the Mission Trail and read it thru. . . Will say goodbye for now and will be counting on your prayers."

--Sis. O. K. Myers

From Mo.: "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus this morning. Thru him we have victory over the devil and all his agents. God has been so gracious and merciful to unworthy us, all because of his great love for us. Tongue can not tell it all. We hope to lift him up in our lives more. My husband is getting along alright, and so thankful to God through Christ for all he has done for him. We aim to go all the way at any cost. It is so good to trust in Jesus for all things. It is a wonderful privilege and then when life is over we can go home to Heaven to praise him more for what he has done for us. Thank you all for your prayers. Yours in Christ,"

--Bro. and Sis. F. E. Wilson

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A MILLION HOMES

A million homes are crying
For Christ the Living Bread,
But so few seem to hear them
And yet they must be fed;
The printed Word will tell them
Of Christ, the Truth, the Way;
Then let us take it to them
Before they pass away.

The night is fast approaching
And soon 'twill be too late
O Church of God awaken
And save them from their fate;
Our Lord said "Every Creature,"
Then go from door to door,
And as we take the Message
Our Lord will go before.

We may not go in person
But we can give and pray,
Our Lord said, "Whosoever,"
Then let us speed away;
The printed Word can reach them
And win them to the fold
Then let us take the Message,
The Story must be told.

--Sel.

From Calif.: "Those Read the Bible by Symbols are wonderful and we are using them in teaching our Junior church here. May God bless you in your work."

--Mr. and Mrs. David E. Miller

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From Wis.:

"He walked a while among us,
To comfort and to bless,
And touched the earth with beauty,
With love and tenderness.
He rose in shining glory,
His promise to fulfill
And healing, helping, guiding,
He walks among us still.
God bless you all abundantly in all of
your efforts for Him! Joyfully yours
in the service of my king,"

--Sis. Myrtle Baerenwald

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OUR BIBLE

O wonderful, wonderful word of the
Lord
True wisdom its pages unfold,
And though we may read them a
thousand times o'er
They never, no never grow old.

Each line has a treasure, each
promise a pearl
That all, if they will, may secure.
And we know that when time and the
world pass away
God's word shall forever endure.
"I don't know the author, but it surely
does appeal to me."

--William S. Barkley

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DON'TS FOR DOUBTERS

Don't waste time arguing with Satan
Don't make your emotions the standard
of your experience,
Don't measure your salvation by some
wonderful experience someone else
had but by the Bible,
Don't be a baby all your life; learn to
be strong.
Don't get discouraged; keep pressing.

The Coming of the Lord

" . . . for we shall see him as he is. "

I John 3:2

When Jesus comes again for the Church, "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds. . ." (I Thess. 4:16, 17) Reunited with those resurrected ones whose bodies had been turned to dust--mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and other precious loved ones--we shall be caught up, and away as the earth is consumed by fire.

This is only part of the story, however. The acme, the highpoint, the climax of this thrilling moment will occur when, side by side with all those who "love His appearing, " we shall rise "to MEET THE LORD in the air. " What a day that will be when you and I shall finally, literally behold Him, the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. We shall see the Mighty Creator, "who made himself of no reputation. . . and was made in the likeness of men. " We shall gaze upon the One who was born as a babe in Bethlehem, and yet had angels, men, demons and elements at His instant command. We shall look upon the One who broke up a funeral procession, and caused a dead man to sit up and talk; who rebuked the fever of a woman, so that she immediately left her bed and ministered unto others; who placed His hand on the eyes of one born blind and scattered his night. We shall see Him, Jesus Christ, who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. "

Oh! my heart is filled with rapture

As I labor, watch, and pray,

For our Lord will soon be coming

Just to catch His Bride away!

Our attitude toward the return of the Lord will determine how we live!

Are You Ready?

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. "

Matt. 7:22, 23

Here indeed is a picture of a most awful disappointment. Great men (as some no doubt appear to be in life) will be turned back from the face of the Lord with the dreadful sentence of justice. Why? Perhaps some think that they never did really perform miracles. But the proof seems to indicate otherwise. We see in this most sobering picture great healers stepping up and confronting the very Lord of Lords to remind him of things which happened for them in life. "Have we not?" they ask. And he offers them no contradiction. These men show their true colors before the Lord by reminding him of their wonder works. True, the gift of prophecy is good, and so is the gift of healing. But these gifts have no merit to gain entrance for one into the kingdom of God. It takes the all atoning blood of Christ to cleanse one from sin. Many are being won to crusades and movements of men rather than the shed blood and the cross of Christ. Being able to do great miracles is no proof of a saint in this awful hour. Satan also works through his agents to work signs and wonders. "For there shall arise false Christ, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. " Matt. 24:24, 25 A consistent and godly life is worth more than an outward show. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. " Matt. 7:20

