



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 4

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Good morning and a very cheerful greeting to all of you. It is indeed a pleasure to be coming your way another time with the gospel of Christ. For several weeks now we have been discussing the goodness and the severity of God. Today we continue with this text, "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." Rom. 11:22 It is a pleasant thing to remember the goodness of God and it is a fearful thing to actually see and know the results of his severity upon those who refuse to accept and believe the gospel and turn from their sins.

In John 12:48 we find these words, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Now don't forget the words of Christ. Mark them well and remember those words of judgment and severity are just as surely coming to pass as is his offer of mercy. Then listen to this verse from John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Does that punishment seem too great? Well, remember there are some folks who have had the opportunity to hear and accept Christ but refuse to do so. So he says, "The wrath of God abideth on him."

And then in II Thes. the 1st chapter and beginning with verse 7, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that

know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power".

Friends, we are living at a time many folks take only that part of the scriptures which suit them best. They like the thought of going to heaven. They like the thought of eternal bliss and happiness and I do too. The Bible teaches this. But how true is that scripture, "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46 How often do you hear the preaching of eternal judgment? Do you know that this is in the Bible also? Then listen, the 25th chapter of Matt. and verse 41 goes like this, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels". That sounds to me like an example of the severity of God and then in verse 46 these words, "And these shall go away into everlasting punish-

ment: but the righteous into life eternal." Friends, the same Bible which speaks of eternal life also speaks of eternal damnation. God is not only one of mercy but he is one of justice and severity.

There is so much vulgar, evil, blasphemous talking these days until some folks have gotten used to it. Perhaps it doesn't quite stir them like it once made them blush when they heard certain words and saw the evil things which are so prevalent these days. But listen to this warning and don't forget this is from the word of God also. It is found in Eph. the 5th chapter and beginning with verse 3, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Dear ones, don't forget that and I hope that you will not let any one deceive you with vain words for surely this part of the Bible is just as true as the other part is.

To further show the severity of God which is going to fall upon those who willfully disobey him, listen to this passage of scripture from Heb. 10 and beginning with verse 28, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant,

wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

It is my sincere hope that those who hear this broadcast will not be one upon whom the judgments of God will come because of their refusal to accept the truth and obey the gospel. Just think of the folks back in Noah's day who heard him proclaim the righteousness of God. Did they listen? Did they accept it? Did they give heed to it? Evidently not, friends, but it was the long suffering of God which waited upon them to come to repentance, but, there came an end to his long suffering and he sent the rains and the floods. How many folks were saved in that day? Just 8. Think of it, only 8 people that were delivered from the flood and then it was those who entered into the ark, the means of escape which God provided for them. And it is said that God shut the door. Dear ones, this final judgment and decision of who is going to enter heaven and who is going to be lost in the regions of despair is going to be left to God alone. It is not going to be the decision of some man, but it will be in the hands of a eternal and a just God.

In the days of Sodom and Gomorrah when the folks lived in wickedness it was Abraham who pleaded for mercy upon those cities. "Would you spare these cities if there should be 50 righteous people in them," pleaded dear old Abraham. Yes, the Lord said he would. And little by little Abraham pleaded with him until he finally reached the number of only 10 righteous people

living therein. Yes, the Lord said he would spare the city for only 10 righteous people. But were they found there? No, think of it, a city of thousands of people and not 10 righteous people therein. A perfect setting for God's wrath to be poured out. And the cities were destroyed with fire and brimstone from heaven. "Behold, therefore the goodness and the severity of God".

Friends, Christ has made a way for your escape. Christ is the ark by which you can be saved. He is the mediator by which you may approach God and receive forgiveness of sins. There is comfort for the righteous but there is torment ahead for the wicked. May God help you to flee from the wrath which is to come.

Let us pray,

Our Father,

We are glad for the provisions which have been made for our escape from the bondage of sin. Bless each listener of the broadcast today with the richest blessings of heaven and should there be those listening who have hardened their hearts against the truth, may this be the time they come to themselves and arise and go to their father who will abundantly pardon and blot out their transgressions for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen

Dear ones, we hope you have enjoyed this gospel message and if so I would be pleased to hear from you. Those who feel they need some spiritual help or if we may be of assistance to you in drawing closer to the Lord, please feel free to write us. You may do so by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. And may I take this opportunity to tell you that we sincerely and deeply appreciate those who

help us keep the message on the air from week to week. We are glad that it is possible for us to trust God to supply the needs and so far he has not failed us. We sincerely thank each of you who have had a part in helping keep the message on the air.

Here is a song, "Glorious Peace". The singers are Bob Forbes, Randall Flynn, Melvin Doolittle, and Dale Doolittle.

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!

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Testimonies

From Okla. : "God sure has been good to me. He has healed me from epilepsy. I would like to ask you to pray for God to have His way with my life. I want to go back to work, but I want God to lead me where I go and in all I do. Please pray for me? There are also some others here in the Golden Rule Home needing prayer for healing. Please pray for them? I will remember you folks in prayer."

--Jerome Park

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From Calif. : "I am still in the Lord's hands. I love Him for He is so good to us. I am doing as well as can be expected. Many changes have taken place in my life but I'm still in the Hands of the Lord. I hope you are all well and enjoying good health, and the blessed peace and grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you. I'm glad to be here with the saints. The Lord so sweetly provided a way for me that I knew not of, until I was right here among them, sweetly cared for by loving hands and willing hearts. Still remember me in your prayers."

--Sis. Georgia Zinn

New Chapel Needed



The present chapel at Nowata, Oklahoma

"Dear Saints: The saints of Nowata, Okla. are happy to announce their plans for a new meeting house. The Lord has been richly blessing in the services we have had in the small building we presently occupy. Because of smallness, age, and condition, we have all been praying about a more suitable meeting place. We feel the Lord is opening the way. We plan on doing much of the work ourselves. We would courteously appreciate the saints' prayers. The Lord has already provided some building material and some help from neighboring congregations. Some of whom have more building talent than we. This is a picture of most of the congregation, plus the Inmans from Kansas City. Yours in Christ,"

--Bro. Clarence Fry, Pastor, Box 145, Nowata, Okla. 74048



Saints at Nowata, Oklahoma

From Okla. : "Trust this finds you all well and happy. I am encouraged to press on for the dear Lord, as nothing else satisfies. I still enjoy the Mission Trail paper and broadcast. I thank the Lord for those who are standing for all of the truth. Am sending you a small offering for the good work you are doing."

--Sis. Sarah Hoffman
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From Calif. : "Just a few lines to let you know that I've changed my address. All is well with me. I like the home here real well. . . I enjoy the Mission Trail very much and want it sent to my new home. I am thankful to be as well as I am. I'm able to get around pretty good. Bro. O. B. Wilson is my minister here and I enjoy him and the Word of God very much."

--Edward Olson
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From Okla. : "Greeting dear ones in the precious name of Jesus. We do enjoy the good messages and the Mission Trail. Keeps us in touch with many of the big family of the Lord's children. The concern of the saints, one for the other, is indeed a precious thing, and to know we can call on them each other, day or night and instantly they go to the throne of grace in each other's behalf. . . We pray this finds all well. Ever be encouraged. This leaves me pressing on. If I make a mistake I try all the harder to press forward to live closer to my Lord and Saviour. Was privileged to be in meeting Sunday at Neosho and hear the second good message of the day. First one from Coffeyville at 8 that morning and that evening to make the day a day of blessings Sis. Ruth and saints from Webb City came by and visited a while. Enclosed find a small offering. Have some unsaved souls on my heart Please remember them and me."

--Doris Bowers

