



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 "Old Man" and the "New Man"

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Good morning, friends. It is a pleasure to be coming your way again over the airwaves. We hope this Sunday morning finds you happy in the Lord and diligent to obey him both in word and in deed, giving no place to the devil. The apostle Paul wrote, "knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel". Now there are two good reasons for me to bring you this gospel broadcast. One of them is that we may expose the evil works of Satan and his agents, and the other, that we may speak in defense of the gospel and hold up the truth. I do need your prayers that we may do so boldly without fear of men.

This scripture from Eph. the second chapter and beginning with the first verse. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved,) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

In this scripture we have pictured before us 2 different lives and their manner of living. One of them I might term the "old man". (And I don't speak this through a lack of respect for older people as many of the young folks refer to their father as the "old man". To tell you the truth, I don't like this expression at all when used in that way.) But I refer to the old man (this is the manner in which the scriptures speak of it) as that life of sin and wickedness. The old man delights in things after the flesh. Sensual pleasures and revelings are the things for which he seeks. The "new man" is that spiritual life to which one is resurrected as a new person in Christ. But let me give you a little more Bible description of the two men. In this book, Eph. 4 and verses 22-24 we find these words, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

THE NEW MAN with the peace of God in his heart



THE OLD MAN --(Now look at this man with page upside down)

Observe now, if you will, any young man or young lady brought up in a home of Christian environment, taught to respect their parents, their school teachers, and the officers of the law. But let that same individual fall into the company of wayward young men and women who begin their downward way by the simple act of smoking cigarets, which leads further to the use of drinking beer and whiskey, then let them participate in a few wild parties and dances and the use of strong drugs, such as marijuana, heroin, and LSD and what is the result? My answer is this. Very quickly will the expression of innocency fade from their countenance. Instead of beauty will come an expression of unhappiness and unrest. Gray hairs will show up, unless they are bleached or dyed, and wrinkles come all too soon in their youthful lives. One small sin leads to another of larger proportion. They find disappointment and their dreams of happiness are dashed upon the cold realities of life. And often those who seem to be their best friends turn them down and forsake them at a time when they need help most. This, my friends, is the life of the old man. The old man walks according to "the prince of this world" which is none other than Satan himself.

Did you notice the expression which refers to these folks as being "dead in trespasses and sins"? Death is often used by writers to express a state of extreme misery and certainly these folks who live such lives by trespassing and sinning bring themselves into a state of deplorable wretchedness as do the heathen people of all nations. And having thus sinned against God they are condemned by him and are considered to be in a state of death. They are liable to the punishment of death which they deserve and which is ready

to be inflicted upon them. When people deviate from the line and rule of moral equity as well as many other flagrant offenses they cross that sacred line that separates the old man and the new.

Now as to how long God will tolerate such a state of condition I cannot tell. Sometimes he brings swift destruction upon those who disobey his laws and at other times he has long patience with them, pleading and waiting for them to come to repentance. God is not pleased in the death of any but he does want and require folks to repent of their sins and forsake them if they would enjoy the happiness of eternal life.

Not long ago I was sitting in a place of business where two young men were also present. After some conversation and discussion their talk became so filthy that I just walked away from them. Notice again this 3rd verse in Eph. 2, "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Did you know that folks who do things like this are subject to the wrath and displeasure of God? A whole catalogue is enumerated in the first chapter of Romans and this verse is found at the end of the chapter, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

But briefly let us consider the new man. This is one who has been born of the spirit and made a new creature in Christ. The things which he once loved he then turns his back upon. And the unsearchable riches of Christ for which he cared nothing, or very little, then becomes his delight and pleasure. He

had rather be in prayer meeting than at a dance hall. He had rather be drinking of the river of pleasure of God's love than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. And in doing so there is a satisfaction upon his countenance. There is peace in his heart and contentment in his life. He knows that he is the child of God who has promised to never leave or forsake his trusting ones. In the words of that dear old leader of God's people, Joshua, may I sum it up this way, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Jos. 24:15
And now this poem:

THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND

'Twas battered and scarred, and the
auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bidden, good folks?" he
cried
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar, a dollar," then, "Two!
Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it
three?"
"Three dollars, once; three dollars,
twice;
Going for three--" But no!
From the room, far back, a gray
haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then wiping the dust from the old
violin,
And tightening the loose strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As sweet as caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bid for the old
violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make
it two,
Two thousand and now three,
Three thousand once, three thousand
twice,
And going and gone," said he.
The people cheered, but some of them
cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth," Swift came
the reply
"The touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless
crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;
A game--and he travels on.
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,
He's "going" and almost "gone."
But the master comes, and the foolish
crowd
Can never quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change
that's wrought,
By the touch of the Master's hand.

Let us pray,

O Lord, the God of all creation,
We are glad that you did not leave us
in our sins, but you provided a means
for our escape and made us the child-
ren of God. We pray especially for
each listener of the broadcast and we
ask that you would keep them from the
evil, give them victory over every
trial, and peace in their hearts which
will last while the ages of eternity roll
and to thee we will give the praise
through Christ our Lord. Amen

If you would like a printed copy of the message today write for one. There is no cost or obligation on your part. Address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. And do tune in again next Sunday for another gospel message.

Here's a song, "We shall run and not be weary" as sung by the Carver Quartet.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphy saying may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. A very cheerful good-bye!

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The One Talent

The man who received the one talent "went and digged in the earth, and hid his Lord's money." It was the one with the smallest gift who left his talent unimproved. In this is given a warning to all who feel that the smallness of their endowments excuses them from service for Christ. If they could do some great thing, how gladly would they undertake it; but because they can serve only in small things sometimes one justifies himself in doing nothing at all. This is a mistake. The Lord in his distribution of gifts is testing character. The man who neglected to improve his talent proved himself an unfaithful servant. Had he received five talents, would he have buried them also as he did the one? His misuse of the one talent shows that he despised the gifts of heaven. The importance of the little things is often underrated because they are small; but they supply much of the actual discipline of life. He who under-rates the importance of little things is likely to fail in building a character which will stand the storms of life. "He that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

From Okla.: "Greetings in Jesus dear name, yet saved and pressing on. I love the little Mission Trail paper and I want to keep getting it. I get much help from it to keep pressing on for the dear Lord. It takes much pressing since so much is coming our way now. . . . Pray much for me. I need it."

--Sis. Annie Bowen

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"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" I Corinthians 3:16

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From Kansas: "I notice the lilies and peonies are coming up. It is stormy looking out now, we surely won't have any more ice this winter, but it snowed here yesterday. It was beautiful but melted almost as fast as it fell. I thought as the snow was falling it looked so clean, but man's soul must be whiter than that, to make it to heaven. There was an article in the paper last night written by a college student that is a user of drugs, telling how harmless drugs are if you know how to use them, how he had used them to stimulate his brain to pass his tests. He said that he intended to continue using them and that he enjoyed them, but he didn't want his parents to find it out. I don't think such an article should have been published. I was thinking one day about how much we owed to God, how he saved us so much just materially. I hear others 'take on' how much their doctor bills are, hospitalization insurance getting higher, and their drug bills are so high. I just thanked God I didn't have any of those. But it made me think of how much we owed God. . . . I just pray God to bless both of you and your family, to supply your every needs, to keep you on the air and keep sending the printed message, it's food to my soul. . . . May God bless you dear ones."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

