



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

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"Think on these Things"

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"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8 Friends, I hope today that your thoughts are good thoughts, clean ones, and pure, for indeed one is greatly affected by the thoughts which they think. If these are good thoughts one is made better. If their thoughts are wicked, and evil, it merely shows what is in their heart. Listen to this poem:

Thinking, Lord, of Thee

Alone in some secure retreat,
The sky o'ershadows me;
All nature smiles so soft and
sweet;
I'm thinking, Lord, of thee.

I see thee in the lonely mount
In silent prayer for me,
Thy tears all night a flowing fount;
I'm thinking, Lord, of thee.

I hear thy deep and mournful sigh
In sad Gethsemane;
I see thee on the reeking cross:
I'm thinking, Lord, of thee.

Awaking from the silent tomb,
Thy risen form I see;
Thy saints awaiting thee to come,
Are thinking, Lord, of thee.

Thinking of thee, O Lord, of thee,
Musing on things above,
Till every cord within my soul
Is tuned with heavenly love.

--Charles E. Orr

Jesus surely knew what he was talking about when he taught his disciples to pray "lead us not into temptation". You see, there are many opportunities to do wrong. If you are seeking to be crooked and to committ evil, you'll find plenty of opportunities to do it, and sometimes those oppprtunities will come at a time when you are least expecting them. Now, the way to overcome temptation is to do as one scripture says, "Gird up the loins of your minds". If you allow your thoughts to dwell on things which are not good you'll surely be affected by them. So, do like this scripture says, "Gird up the loins of your minds". Do you know the gateway by which evil thoughts get into the heart? They go through the mind. Alright, that is why it is so important that we keep the gate bolted and fortified against the powers of evil.

Notice a few of the things this verse says to think about. It mentions the true, the honest, and the just, as well as the pure, the lovely, and whatsoever things are of good report. Now you

just show me a person who thinks on things like this and I'll show you a person who is guarding the entrance of their heart to keep evil thoughts out of their minds.

Take for instance the example which Jesus left. After he had fasted for 40 days and nights he was hungry. Then Satan came and suggested that he turn the stones into bread. Well, that certainly was within his power to do, but if he had looked longingly at the stone and imagined how good the bread would taste, he might have yielded to the suggestion of Satan. But once a person recognizes that a thing is wrong, he should harbor it no longer. It is time to let one's thoughts move on to greater heights. The object of this lesson recommends holiness and righteousness to the followers of Christ in every point of view. It shows that we are required to have the mind that was in Christ and to walk even as he walked. We are not to attend to one branch of righteousness or virtue only, but to everything by which we might bring honor to God, good to our fellowmen, and exemplify the life of Christ.

I don't want you to forget that part of the verse which says, "Think on these things". In other words, think on the good things and it will make your life better and more enriched.

Listen to this verse, "Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15 Now do you want your mind and conscience to be clean? Then guard your mind and don't allow it to run away. In the book of James a very accurate account is given concerning temptation. It says that every man is tempted when he is drawn

away of his own lust. Now what is it that will draw one away into temptation? I would say the senses of the body. It might either be the eye, or the smelling, the hearing, the tasting, or feeling. Would you like to know why so many women folks are being attacked on the streets these days? Well, let me give you one good reason. It is the way they are dressed. I say that a miniskirt is a reproach to anyone professing to be a child of God and pretending to follow in his footsteps. If you want to be treated as a lady, then dress like one, act like one, and think like one. And the same thing goes for the men too. They need to gird up the loins of their minds and watch and be sober.

Do you remember that song, "Palms of victory"? There is one verse that says,

"The songsters in the arbor
That stood beside the way
Attracted his attention,
Inviting his delay:
His watch-word being 'Onward!'
He stopped his ears and ran,
Still shouting as he journeyed,
'Deliverance will come.'"

Friends, for you to live a clean and a holy life it may be necessary for you to do like the illustration of the monkeys. One had his hands over his eyes, another had his hands over his mouth, and one had his hands over his ears, indicating that they see no evil, speak no evil, and hear no evil. Well, I realize that we are in a world where there are many folks not living this way and we come in contact with this type of people. It doesn't mean that we are ignorant and that we don't know what is being done, but we should at least be like Jesus prayed for his disciples when he said, "They are not of the world

even as I am not of the world". And he prayed for the father to keep them from the evil. This we need to do continually.

Now I want to go back and pick up one more verse from Phil. This is the 7th verse of this 4th chapter, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." I am sure glad that it is possible for the peace of God to keep our hearts and minds through Christ. I believe that the Lord is able to keep them as a strong place or castle. Here the heart is mentioned, which is the seat of your affections and passion, and then it mentions the mind which is your understanding, judgment, and conscience. All of these need to be kept through Christ Jesus. It is through Christ that we were brought into this state of favor and it is through him that we are preserved in it. Dear ones, Christ is able to keep the heart in peace in which he dwells and rules. This peace passes all understanding. It is of a very different nature from all that can arise from human occurrences. It is the peace which Christ has purchased and which God dispenses. It is felt by all the true godly folks and can be explained by none. It is communion with the father and his son, Jesus Christ, by the power and influence of the Holy Ghost.

Let us pray,

Our father,

We are glad for the peace of God which passeth all understanding and we pray that you would keep our hearts and minds through our Lord free from the condemnation and the reproach of Satan. Bless each listener of the broadcast this day that they too may share in the peace of God and thine shall be

the praise through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Thank you, friends, for taking time to listen. If you are not already getting the printed copies of The Mission Trail each week and you would like to have them, be sure to let us know. They are free of charge without cost or obligation to you. Just write us in this way, The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. And we sincerely appreciate those who have written and help us keep the message going forth on the air. We are trusting the Lord by faith to keep his word going forth and we do hope that it will be a blessing to some. Surely if there was ever a time when God's people need to be busy it is now. It is not time for us to sit down and wait for a more convenient season. It is time for us to be up and about our Father's business. Do be with us again next week at this same time. Here's a song, "Watch and Pray". The Carvers are the singers.

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

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MARY HATH CHOSEN THE BETTER PART

Testimonies

From Mo. : "With thanksgiving in our hearts to God for all his great love and mercy and the other blessings he bestows upon us. It just seems he has lowered a lot of heaven in our hearts and life is becoming more sweet each day with Jesus. It seems we can resist the enemy so much better. We are glad that God will take care of everything even those things that are in the future. We won't have to fear because God will be there to help us."

--F. E. and Ellen Wilson

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From Ore. : "I want to testify what the Lord did for me. Saturday evening after I put some wood in the stove my eye began to hurt. It felt like something in my eye--like it might be lodged near the eye-ball. I washed my eye and used a Q-tip to try to pick up whatever was in it, but couldn't get anything out of my eye. I went to bed early thinking if I didn't use my eyes, that would help but still there was such a scratchy feeling whether my eye was closed or open. . . After calling on Him and leaving it in His hands, in a couple hours all the misery and hurting left and I do thank the Lord for that. There is nothing too hard for the Lord to handle!"

--Sis. Lucille Trimble

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From La. : "We greet you again in Jesus name. Hope all is well with you. As for us, we are by faith pressing on with victory in our soul, encouraged to trust God to the final victory. Our physical condition is about the same as when you were here. Enclosed is an offering to help with the work. It seems that the greatest need of today is for people to believe the gospel of Christ our saviour. May the Lord bless in the work that you are doing and keep you encouraged."

--G. A. Nichols

From La. : "I am still encouraged in the blessed Lord. He has and is still doing so much for us. My oldest son had a very serious operation April 3rd but is doing real well now. . . Pray for him. . . Much love to you all."

--Sis. Eunice Joiner

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From S. C. : "My little baby got a fish bone down his throat. He cried--and what could I do but pray and ask God to release it. He came to my calling and it was over when I came to him, prayed and asked for help. He was near to me and I called Archie and he turned the tape recorder on and Bro. and Sis. Abbott was preaching and we joined in with them. We had a sweet time in the Lord."

--Sis. Sallie Sweat

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From Ill. : "My God's great grace and peace be with you all! I trust that this letter will find you all well and rejoicing in God's blessings and the nice spring weather and beauties. We are enjoying the lovely green of the grass and trees and the beautiful spring flowers. We are having rain showers today. I do thank God for his blessings and most of all for his wondrous salvation. Without it my eyes would be blinded and I couldn't appreciate the many good things he has blessed us with. . . I have a special request for my little grandson who is 14 months old today. His parents stopped by this morning on their way to Children's Hospital in St. Louis. They are taking him up there for tests. He was born with a heart defect and his heart is enlarged and he wheezes continually because of congestion in his lungs. The doctor has said he could have a heart-attack anytime. Please have special prayer for him and his parents . . . May God bless you all and supply all your needs according to His riches in glory."

--Thelma Sprague

From Calif.: "I have been getting your little weekly paper for some time. I have wondered how you received my name and address. O, I do not know any of the people who sends in testimonies. I thought perhaps you might be some of the Webb City, Mo. Church of God people. My husband and I were saved under Mother Sunderland's teaching in Oct. 1904. We left Mo. in Sept. 1913. Our home was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa until my husband passed away in Feb. 1944. I have been making my home with my children since that time. I lived in Tucson, Ariz. six years, Hyattsville, Maryland 19 yrs., came here last April. I will be 89 yrs. old in July. I am almost deaf and limited eye sight. However very grateful to the dear Lord for all His love and mercy to me. . ."

--Mary Alice Halfhill

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From Calif.: "I think about you often and appreciate the paper very much. I intended to write sooner but it seems I stay real busy most of the time. My husband lost both of his parents in Feb. His father died with cancer on the 13th and his mother went suddenly with a heart attack on the 22nd. The 2 funerals were 8 days apart. Yes, this is a hard blow and we need your prayers . . . The Lord is so good to us and I have a stronger determination to serve him. Surely this old world can't go on much longer at the rate it is going. I believe the second coming of the Lord is not far away. . . Bro. Samons said we won't go sliding into heaven. If we get there we'll go climbing. I have been thinking on that statement. After all heaven is up and we don't slide up. When folks are sliding I fear they are sliding down. . . May the Lord bless you real good. The papers are a blessing to me. Pray for us and I will for you."

--Mrs. R. L. Reavis

From W. Va.: "Greetings of Christian love. Hope all are well and prospering in the work of the Lord. I have had some afflictions but feeling much better. Our God knows what is best. He will supply all our needs for both soul and body. He is a great and wonderful God in whom we can trust and know that he doeth all things well. Enclosed is a little offering. May the Lord bless you and supply every need."

--Olive Keene

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From Oregon: "I am still saved and pressing on for the Lord. I mean by the grace of God to make Heaven my home. I find this is a pressing way, but I am not alone in this battle. The Lord has promised never to leave nor forsake me also says as your days so shall your strength be. I am following a captain that never lost a battle. . . I have just celebrated my 89th birthday. What a nice time I had. My only sister left of father's family and my daughter came from Calif. to be with me. We celebrated a week ahead. . . We had such a wonderful day. Rec'd so many nice presents and I rec'd some money. I am sharing it with the Lord's work. I am sending \$5 of my birthday money. I always share my money with the Lord. He is so good to me. (The Bible say give and it shall be given you heaped up pressed down running over) O! how bountiful the Lord gives. Well I have experienced that promise over and over. I think when I send money for the gospel work will I have any more to give. Then here comes so much from the Lord. Praise the Lord for his word. I have proved it ore and ore. I never worked for anyone that paid so well. I also got an order for 5 pair of baby booties and they sent the money. I am all sold out of booties and pillow cases. I will order some more to make."

--Sis. O. K. Myers

