



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 MISSION TRAIL

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If a Man Die, Shall he Live Again? Part 2 *June*

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Good morning, friends. It is indeed a privilege to be coming your way one more time with another short message. I surely hope it will prove a blessing to each one. I am happy that God has made it possible through those who have a love for the truth to come your way again by means of radio. Listen to this poem:

HELP ME TO LEARN

Dear Lord, I know Thou surely
 wouldest not lead
 Me on this rugged road, did I not need
 To learn from Thee some lesson on
 the way;
 And so, with confidence, I humbly
 pray
 That I may feel the comfort of Thy
 Hand,
 And learn the precious lesson Thou
 hast planned.
 O help me, Lord, to question not or
 fret,
 To learn my lesson well and not
 forget,
 That how to comfort others I may
 know,
 As o'er this thorny path they, too,
 must go--
 And having learned it, that my life
 may be
 More pleasing and acceptable to Thee.

I want to remind you again of the scripture we used last week. It is this question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Job 14:14 I am sure there are many people who have tried to find the answer to this perplexing question, but I believe we can learn the answer

if we look into the scriptures. Listen to what some of the folks back in Paul's day had to say about him when he preached unto them the resurrection: "And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection." Acts 17:18 Then there was another time when Paul had this to say concerning the resurrection: "And have hope toward God, which they also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust." Acts 24:15

That scripture proves that everybody is going to be raised from the dead, that is, all of those who have died. Some folks would lead you to believe there is going to be a thousand years between the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the wicked. But listen to this scripture. These are Jesus own words, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Now that is found in John

5:28, 29 Does that sound to you like there will be a thousand years between the two events? I would say no, not since it all happens in the same hour. Certainly the same hour is not a thousand years long.

But listen to this scripture, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen; And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God: because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. But if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." I Cor. 15:12-20 Dear ones, you know it would be a dreadful thing to think that this life is all there is. Were there no resurrection, were there not a hope of tomorrow, what would we have to look forward to in life, but I thank God that there is hope of a resurrection from the dead. Notice carefully this phrase, "the firstfruits of them that slept". There is something quite unique about this scripture. Certainly Jesus was not the first one to be resurrected from the dead. There was the widow who fed Elijah in the time of famine. Her son died and Elijah the prophet brought him back to life through a miracle of God. Then he presented him to his mother. At another time Elisha brought back to life the Shunammite's son. Then

again this third event, "And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet." II Kings 13:21 I am sure that must have been quite a surprise to those who were burying that man. But there is power with God. In this case of some of these who were resurrected from the dead it came through the prophets and in this one incident it even happened as the dead man's body touched the bones of the prophet Elisha.

This is the account of three folks who were restored to life in the Old Testament. Then, of course Christ raised Lazarus, and the widow's son in the recording of the New Testament. The thing which I would like for you to know is that all these people had a natural body which would eventually die again. But the body with which Christ came forth in his glorious resurrection was an immortal body. Listen, "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." I Cor. 15:44-45 So Christ who was the "firstfruits" of them that slept was raised with a spiritual body. He was the first one to have this type of resurrection. In other words it was an incorruptible body, one which would never more die. I am looking forward to having a body like that too, aren't you? Listen to this verse, "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil. 3:21

But let us not forget that which is to befall the wicked dead. We are told they too will be brought forth to shame and everlasting contempt. All of this is to occur at the return of the Lord at the last day. And it seems as if so many things are being fulfilled in this our day. How quickly the Lord could return. We are told to watch and pray. We are told to be looking forward and waiting for his coming. Surely we don't know how soon that may be. It may be morning, noon, or night and we are cautioned to watch and be ready.

Dear ones, are you ready for the coming of the Lord? When all the bodies of the dead folks are resurrected in that great day, that will indeed be an awesome and glorious day. For the righteous it will be a time of rejoicing but for the wicked it will be one of fear and judgment.

Shall we pray,

Our Father,

Bless each listener of the broadcast in the way which they need most. Awaken those who are dead in trespasses and sins. Help them to live a life of which they will not be ashamed in that resurrection morning. And to thee we will give the praise through Christ Jesus. Amen

Thank you, friends, for taking time to listen. We do hope you will tune in again next week. If you would like to write us, you may address your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. And may I say we deeply appreciate those who have helped to keep this message going forth. It is a real inspiration and a joy when we hear of someone who writes or through a report of someone else, and they tell us that they listen to the broadcast. We want it to

be anointed of the Lord. Within ourselves we are so helpless, we are so dependent, but I thank the Lord that He has called us to send forth his gospel. This we are endeavoring to do in a way that would be pleasing in his sight.

Here is a song, "Heaven's Jubilee". The singers are Waldo Eck, Edwin Eck, and Neta Eck.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may God richly bless every one of you and a very cheerful good-bye!

Testimonies

From Okla. : "Greetings in the precious name of Jesus this beautiful day. . . I sure enjoy the Mission Trail as well as the message on radio each Sunday morn over KGGF. . . Trust you all are well. The Lord is good to His trusting children. I know you are having a good meeting and wish I could be with you but the days have shortened so it's about dark before I would leave home. The Lord knows my heart and how I long to be there, but I can pray for which I am thankful and I know the messages are profitable. May the dear Lord bless each dear heart, and bless your every effort. I enjoyed hearing about your and Kathleen's trip to Jamaica, I'm sure it's quite an experience. The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. Many things we don't understand, but I'm glad the Lord knows and understands them all. God is our refuge and strength. I sure like the 91 Psalm, 'He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.' Then it goes on to tell how He protects and cares for those who dwell in the secret place of the most high. Well, praise the dear Lord. "

--Sis. Emma Dilley

From Ohio: "Greetings of divine love to all. It is with thanksgiving that I write this short note. We appreciate so very much the blessings rich and real of our heavenly father. Thank you so very much for the Mission Trail papers. Surely they are blessings to my soul. Even though we're living in an age of much confusion and turmoil, I'm glad for the privilege of standing aloof from a sin cursed world to declare it's real, it's real!! The very Spirit of God has condescended into my wretched soul to dwell forevermore. Thank the Lord! Truly there is a deep seated peace in my heart today. Oh, I do thank the dear Lord for that 'satisfying portion'." --Kay Williams

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From La.: "Greetings in Jesus name. It has been so long since I have written. I am thankful for the way that the Lord has blessed me. I am encouraged to press on in spite of trials and afflictions, which are many. I find the Lord is a present help through them all. I am 70 years old and know that I can't be here always so want to be drawn closer to him. I want to die trusting the dear Lord. Please pray for me. We enjoy the Mission Trail. Am sending a small donation to help out. Pray for my unsaved loved ones. . . Well I must try to get this in the mail. Remember me in your prayers and may God bless you in your work for the Lord." --Sis. Maurie Lea

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From S. C.: "God maketh my heart soft. I realize that God through these trials is making our hearts soft. I do want to be so tender and merciful to others. God has dealt so tenderly and merciful with me, I don't have a desire in my heart to grieve anyone. By the grace of God I am doing all I know to do not to grieve anyone and to please my dear Lord. Heaven is where we

have started. Dear sister and brother let us not give down nor slack our pace. The devil is on our trail. We don't have anything to turn back to. Jesus said watch and pray so we know there is something to watch for and that is the tempter. Let us strive to enter in at the straight gate. Jesus said he that endureth unto the end the same shall be saved so we know there is some enduring for us, but God has promised to go with us all the way. If we keep our little hand in his great hand we know God will save and keep us from all evil. I need your prayers."

--Sis. Sallie Sweat

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From Miss.: "We've received 2 of the little papers, Mission Trail, and enjoyed them very much, think it is a good way to get the gospel to the unsaved, or at least to help. The fields are white to harvest and we must work while it is day. The night cometh when no man can work." --Mrs. Grace Gill

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"Go into the Highways and Hedges"

The Saviour was a guest at the feast of a Pharisee. He accepted invitations from the rich as well as the poor, and, according to His custom, He linked the scene before Him with His lessons of truth. The lesson of warning and instruction which Christ desired to give, He now illustrated by the parable of a great supper. The blessings of God, both for the present and for the future life, the Jews thought to shut up to themselves. They denied God's mercy to the Gentiles. By the parable Christ showed that they were themselves, at that very time, rejecting the invitation of mercy, the call to God's kingdom. He showed that the invitation which they had slighted was to be sent to those whom they despised, those from whom

they had drawn away their garments, as if they were lepers to be shunned. In choosing the guests for his feast, the Pharisee had consulted his own selfish interest. Christ said to him, "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors, lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: and thou shalt be blessed; for they can not recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just." These gatherings were to be as object-lessons to Israel. Being thus taught the joy of true hospitality, the people were throughout the year to care for the bereaved and the poor. And these feasts had a wider lesson. "A certain man," He said, "made a great supper, and bade many." When the time of the feast arrived, the host sent his servant to the expected guests with a second message, "Come; for all things are now ready." But a strange indifference was shown. "All with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I can not come." None of the excuses were founded on a real necessity. The man who "must needs go and see" his piece of ground, had already purchased it. His haste to go and see it was due to the fact that his interest was absorbed in his purchase. The oxen, too, had been bought. The proving of them was only to satisfy the interest of the buyer. The third excuse had no more semblance of reason. The fact that the intended guest had married

a wife need not have prevented his presence at the feast. His wife also would have been made welcome. But he had his own plans for enjoyment, and these seemed to him more desirable than the feast to which he was invited. He had learned to find pleasure in other society than that of the host. He did not ask to be excused, made not even a pretense of courtesy in his refusal. The "I can not" was only a veil for the truth, -- "I do not care to come." All the excuses betray a preoccupied mind. To these intended guests other interests had become all-absorbing. By the great supper, Christ represents the blessings offered through the gospel. The provision is nothing less than Christ Himself. He is the bread that comes down from heaven; and from Him the streams of salvation flow. The Lord's messengers had proclaimed to the Jews the advent of the Saviour; they had pointed to Christ as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In the feast He had provided, God offered to them the greatest gift that Heaven can bestow, -- a gift that is beyond computation. The love of God had furnished the costly banquet, and had provided inexhaustible resources. "If any man eat of this bread," Christ said, "he shall live forever." But in order to accept the invitation to the gospel feast, they must make their worldly interests subordinate to the one purpose of receiving Christ and His righteousness. Christ gave all for man, and God asks him to place His service above every earthly and selfish consideration. He can not accept a divided heart. The heart that is absorbed in earthly affections can not be given up to God. The lesson is for all time. We are to follow the Lamb of God whithersoever He goeth. His guidance is to be chosen, His companionship valued, above the companionship of earthly friends.

