



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing
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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Drifting

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Good morning, friends. We are glad for every listener of THE MISSION TRAIL broadcast. We hope you are enjoying the blessings of the Lord. Occasionally we get a letter from someone who writes us for the first time and tells us that they have been listening to the broadcast. This is a real thrill to me. I enjoy hearing from new places and new people. So if you have never written to us we would like to know if you get a blessing from the broadcast. The address is simple. Just send your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. You might like a printed copy of the weekly message. Request it when you write. There is no charge or obligation on your part. Now this scripture,

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

I want you to notice that this particular congregation had some good principles. The Lord reminded them that he knew their works and their labours. They had patience and they stood against that which was evil. Even some of those who professed to be apostles were found to be liars, so these folks evidently didn't tolerate them. These saints had borne a lot for the cause of Christ and they had great patience and didn't give

up easily. But I want you to notice this one charge brought against them. They were warned that they had left their first love. To me this indicates a falling away from their original zeal and steadfastness. Or to put it in language which you might understand even better, this congregation was just simply backsliding. Backsliding isn't a very good word. It doesn't sound good. I don't like it. It indicates a losing out, a turning away from that which at one time they possessed. Of all the people who are miserable, wretched, unhappy, and restless I think a backslider must be among that number. Listen to the way Peter describes a backslider, "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." II Peter 2:21

But remember this. I believe that in most cases backsliding comes about on a gradual scale or decline. So often

it doesn't just happen all at once. Oh, of course I know the Apostle Peter lost out that night when he was accused by the maid who wondered if he wasn't one of the disciples. It seemed rather sudden that he should begin cursing and swearing and all the while he declared that he didn't even know Christ. However this was before he was filled with the Holy Ghost which did settle him down and establish him to be a better witness for the Lord and he did go out and repent and make it right with the Lord. But as a general rule I believe that losing out with the Lord is a gradual process. Of course, it does lead one to the point of eventually severing his relationship with God.

Perhaps you have heard that expression about "the straw that broke the camel's back." It would seem a strange thing that one straw should break the camel down, wouldn't it? Well, in reality it is not the one straw only that breaks the camel's back. The camel was already well loaded. It just indicates to me that there is a limit how far one can go before they lose out with the Lord. Some folks try to straddle the fence, so to speak. They want to serve the Lord on Sunday and live the rest of the week in their sinful pleasures.

Now let me give you a good example of what happens to a person when they begin to turn away from the Lord. Do you remember King Solomon? Do you remember how God blessed him with wisdom, with riches, and how his fame spread throughout the world of that day? But what happened to King Solomon? Isn't it strange that one so wise and loved of the Lord would fall away? Indeed it is. However it is written of him, "But king Solomon loved many strange women". Now of course, some

of these women worshipped their heathen gods. King Solomon allowed them to build and carry on their places of worship and then in this 4th verse of the 11th chapter of I Kings it finally says, "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. In other words this evil influence was like the straw that broke the camel's back. Little by little King Solomon gave way to these things until he was actually displeasing the Lord. For it says in verse 9 and 10, "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the Lord commanded." Then to those who think that it is impossible for one to lose their soul after they have once been converted, I want you to listen to this scripture, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." That is found in I Cor. 10:12. If it were impossible to be lost after one was first saved it certainly wouldn't be necessary for that scripture to be in the Bible.

Was it not Judas, one of the twelve, who betrayed the Lord? Why did he do it? Do you suppose that 30 pieces of silver appealed to him and he thought to himself how much he could do with the money? Anyway he yielded to the temptation. But did it bring happiness? Indeed not. But he came with that money and those with whom he had bargained refused to accept it. But so did Judas refuse to keep it. He threw it down because he realized that he had betrayed innocent blood. He lost his inheritance and from there he

went and hanged himself.

Think of Esau. In a moment of weakness when he was hungry he bargained to sell his birthright all for a mess of pottage. I wonder if there are those who will hear this broadcast who once had a good experience with the Lord? Why have you slacked up? Why have you turned again to the things which you once forsook? Does it bring contentment and satisfaction? I doubt it. Let me entreat you that God is interested in the backslider. He wants them to return to him. The prodigal son left his home, he left his dear father. Why? Because he chose to go his own way and he did, but he did so to his own sorrow. He learned the lessons of life through hard experience. However, experience is often costly and sometimes those who fail God find no place of repentance in later years. May I entreat you, dear ones, hold fast to the truth. To those who have been careless, neglectful, and unconcerned may I invite you to return unto the Lord. Listen to this verse from Jer. 4:14, "Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever."

Let us pray,

Our Father,

Bless each listener of the broadcast. Help the saints to be faithful even unto death. Then we pray for those who are careless and have lost out with the Lord. Bring them back to thine own self even as the father restored the prodigal son with his love. Thine shall be the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Listen to this poem:

THE COURSE OF THE WORLD

Carelessly drifting, the world rushes on;
For pleasure and folly in madness they run,
Allured by the glitter, the pride, and the show;
So careless and thoughtless, still onward they go;
Unheeding the voice of the watchman on high;
"Oh, turn ye! oh, turn ye! for why will ye die?"

Carelessly drifting away from their God,
Away from his people, away from his Word;
Bewitched and enchanted with sin's siren song,
They plunge in the whirlpool of folly and wrong;
Forgetting the holy, the pure, and the true:
Still onward the follies of sin they pursue.

Dear ones, may the Lord bless each one of you to live close to God.

Here is a song, "Heavenly Sunlight".

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

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Testimonies

From Calif.: "We sure enjoy the news letter, sorry we are too far to hear the broadcast. We are sending \$10 toward the work. We trust and pray it will not be the last time. We thank the Lord for being saved and our desire is to grow in the Lord."

--Bro. and Sis. William Johnson

From Calif.: "Do pray for me that I will always keep Heaven in view for we all know this is the good life."

--Edna Murry

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From Kansas: "Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A little more help to you and yours for the spreading of the gospel for that's when Jesus is coming--when the gospel has been preached to the whole world. Preach the word at any cost for the world in sin is lost. Though a million be brought in there is yet a billion in sin."

--C. A. Stone

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From Wisc.: "It is quite a while since I have written and should have written before but slipped my mind. . . Our meeting here was so good when Kenneth Probst and family and Bro. Stover was here. . . We are down to very few now having lost 13 in about a year's time. I still minister in the Rest Home where there must be about 80 old people. It is sad to see so many near eternity and so blinded by religion. Yesterday at the birthday party they had dancers come in to entertain. There is a new woman with creeping paralysis who seems to be saved and with faith. She didn't attend their worldly affair so we had a good visit. She asked me to read Heb. 11 and then asked another woman to come to be with us. Last time I was there two sisters, in the flesh, seemed burdened for victory and we had a good time together and one sought the Lord. They seemed to hunger for righteousness. After I left their room they came to the next room I was visiting with a note of appreciation and a donation. One had given me money for the church before. All seem to enjoy the story tracts even the Catholics and there are none that can say they do not know the way as the tracts are very plain as to salvation."

--Sis. Dietrich

From Wisc.: "Greeting to you all and to all the saints of the Mission Trail! How good it is to have a heavenly Father we can depend upon to hear our prayers when we live for Him. I get great comfort in reading the Psalms when I have trials and troubles. I must tell Jesus . . . Please remember me in your prayers. . . I pray God's richest blessing on you there as you strive to win souls. Yours in Christ,"

--Myrtle Baerenwald

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From Mo.: "Greetings of love this cool Sun. even. We had snow here this afternoon. It was so beautiful. Great big fluffy flakes. We have never seen anything like it before. The ground was already wet, so it all melted, but we certainly enjoyed watching it. . . When you think of us, please remember us in prayer and we will do the same for you. We enjoy both the program and the paper very much. By-by with our love and prayers."

--Dallas, Naomi Campbell and children

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From Idaho: "With joy and gladness we send greetings to you in the Sweet Name of Jesus. He is a wonderful Friend to have and to keep--if we will walk in the way He has taught us to go. I am so thankful that I have ever learned to know Him and to know that He will care for His own. How are all at your house? We trust that the Lord has been blessing each with good health but most of all with a strong faith in the Lord. We know that the devil would weaken our faith if we are not careful but we must give care to watching at all times that he won't get in. Every step we take we are contested but we can win if we just count it so and that is our privilege in the Lord. We are enjoying the blessings of the Lord for He surely has made Himself strong in our behalf."

--Sister Ruby Marken

From Pa. : "Greetings in the precious Name of our dear Savior and Lord! How great He is! Bless the Lord oh! my soul and forget not all His benefits. I am praising His name today for all He has done for me this week. He heard and answered my prayer and how I do thank Him. Mother is getting more feeble in her legs, but is still trying to walk where she has to. She reads constantly. Maybe once a day she will crochet for an hour, then back to reading of God's word. She says she is trying to make up for the times she didn't get to read while rearing her family. She kept cows and chickens and baked all our bread, made all our clothes until we were almost grown, so you know she was a busy Mother and regrets she didn't take time to read God's word to us children, ten of us. Now we are trying to take care of her . . . Enjoying reading about your trip to Jamaica in the Mission Trail. God bless you in all you do."

--Sis. Eva Cox

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From Ohio: "Greetings in Jesus dear name. Surely I am thankful and glad for the good camp meetings the Lord has blessed us with this summer. I don't know when I ever enjoyed a year more than this one. I do love this good way and His precious dealings with my soul. I do enjoy the little Mission Trail and the good messages it carries. I picked up my dear deceased wife's Bible and read one of her poems. Thought it good to send it in to you.

IT'S RESULTS THAT COUNTS

It's better to see a sermon
Than to hear one any day,
It's better one would walk with you
Than merely tell the way;
The eye is a better pupil and
More willing than the ear.

Fine counsel is confusing
But the example is always clear.

The best of all preachers
Are the men who live their creeds.
But to see the truth in action
Is what the people need.
You too can be an example
If we let you see it done
You may see my hands in action
But my tongue too fast may run.

The message I deliver
May be very wise and true
But results are more important
By observing what I do.
You may not understand my story,
And advice I sometimes give,
But there is no misunderstanding
In the religion that I live."

--William A. McCoy

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From Okla. : "I still enjoy your messages on radio, and reading the Mission Trail paper. I think what is needed today is the old fashioned Bible way. God's word never changes and never will. So many are being fooled by way of the fashion of the world and by trying to live like the world and still think they will make it to heaven."

--Sis. Mable Been

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From Colo. : "This leaves us both well and happy in the Lord. To him be all the glory and praise. Hope this finds you dear ones well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. It is getting cooler here now. Winter is just around the corner and the corner is getting closer. We are enjoying the Mission Trail very much. Just keep the good work going. Was glad you and Sis. Kathleen had the privilege of the missionary trip to Jamaica. Am enclosing a small offering for the work. May God richly bless you for the efforts. Remember us." --The McEndrees

