



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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"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3

Good morning, friends. I hope things are going well for you today. But above other things I trust that you are prospering in spiritual growth and keeping encouraged in the Lord. After all, these are the most important things in life. You see, some of these days our troubles and trials in this world will be over. So when that time comes we are looking forward to a better place which the Lord hath prepared for those who love him.

Now notice especially this last verse, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I am sure this doesn't mean that we can be perfect in every respect for as long as we are in the body we are subject to mistakes. But I do believe that we can and should have purity of heart. Don't you remember what Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount? "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Now if it wasn't possible for our heart to be purified I don't believe Jesus would have said that, do you? How about these verses here in Acts 15:8, 9, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness,

giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." Well, we ought to have 3 witnesses anyway concerning purity of heart, so listen to this one from I Tim. 1:5, "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned".

But there is one thing sure. Folks who trust in their own self-righteousness are not going to have pure hearts. There was the Pharisee who went up to the temple to pray. He thought of himself as righteous. He no doubt sought to secure the favor of both God and man by the manner in which he prayed. He mentioned in his prayer the good deeds which he did. He said he fasted twice in a week and gave tithes of all that he possessed. He seemed to be satisfied with a religion that only cleaned up the outside of his life. He was filled with self-righteousness, the fruit of his own work, and was judging by a human standard.

One of the characteristics of a person

