



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

VOL. 8, NO. 19

THE MISSION TRAIL

MAY 26, 1972

Two Mysteries

Radio Broadcast for week of May 21, 1972

Good morning to everyone. Indeed, I count it a privilege to be coming your way again with the Word of the Lord. This is what we need in times like these. We need an anchor to the soul, something stable and enduring. This we have in the Bible. And along with the word is the Spirit to bear witness to the truth. Have you heard about folks who were deeply engrossed in reading mystery stories? Well, I don't take much stock for that kind of reading as far as cheap and trashy literature goes. But did you know there are many mysteries in the world? Real ones I'm speaking of. And wrapped up in them is a lot of truth, if we understood it. I want to talk to you about two mysteries on this broadcast.

But first this scripture: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3:16.

What do you think of that scripture? Do you want to know what I think? I think there is a great mystery connected with godliness. Some folks who don't understand spiritual things make light of serving the Lord, but if they really understood they would view godliness with a much different attitude. A mystery is there, which they don't understand. This one verse sums up the birth of Christ, his life, suffering, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Think of all that being wrapped up in one verse in the scriptures. But that is what it is. The whole plan of salvation is found right here in this verse. Where could you find another verse like it? Well, you say that is a mystery!

Sure enough, it is a mystery, but so is godliness.

And so because critics cannot understand the virgin birth of Christ, because they don't know how Mary could bear a son whose name should be called Jesus, whose conception was of the Holy Ghost, then they bring in human reasoning and deny the miraculous manner in which Jesus was born. This doesn't change the truth of the matter in the least. The mystery is still there. A mystery is something secret, hidden, not known to all. And so it is with godliness.

It is indeed a mystery how God can get hold of a man like Saul was, change his outlook on life, cleanse his heart, and set him going to proclaim the very truths which he once denied when he persecuted those who stood for them. Now, I say, that is the mystery of godliness. What made him do it? Was it by persuasion of men, or by brainwashing as it is called these days? I would say not, for

at the moment he was smitten down, he had it in his mind to go to hunt out and persecute those who preached Jesus Christ. It is a mystery what changed him. This mystery is known to God. He understands it perfectly.

Here is another thing--how is it that in a world shot through with evil, and indeed, there is much of it around, that godliness holds its own and even gains sometimes? Why are not the righteous and all they stand for, completely annihilated from the earth? What is it that will cause a man to lay down his life for his friend? Do you know there are some righteous folks who would still do that? In fact, Jesus laid down his life for us while we were still his enemies. That is more of a mystery. Read in "Fox's Book of Martyrs" of some of the fiendish tortures by steel and fire. Isn't it a mystery how those righteous men and women could hold to their faith in the face of death and torment? I say there is a great mystery in godliness.

There is a verse in Psalms 120, and the second verse which says: "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue." It is a marvel how the truth will change a person to the extent of making honest people out of those who had been given to lying and cheating. But that is the way it works. If one's word is no good, then I take it that his character is of little value either. If I take my watch out of my pocket to find what time it is, it will be of little use for me to look at it unless I am sure that it keeps good time. If it sometimes stands still for an hour or more and then goes on again; if it sometimes loses two or three hours a day by going too slow, or gains as much more by going too fast, then I cannot depend upon it. A watch that cannot be depended upon

is of little use. It may have a beautiful gold case, it may be sparkling with jewels, but yet it will be of no service to me as a watch, unless I can depend on what it tells me about the time. It might have a little value for the metals that's contained in it. But, we do not judge the value of a watch by the kind of case it has, but by finding out whether it keeps good time. And so, one of the things by which we judge the real value and worth of men and women, of boys and girls, is this: Are they truthful? Do they mean what they say? Are they really what they seem to be? If they speak the truth and act the truth, then they are like a watch that keeps good time. And isn't it a mystery how God can instill the truth in a person that he will be honest regardless of the cost or loss to him in some financial situation?

But on the other side of the ledger is the mystery of evil. If God is all powerful, why does he permit evil? If, being present everywhere, he sees all the evil and iniquity which goes on in this earth, why doesn't he banish evil forever from the face of the earth? Friends, this is a mystery God reserves for his own wisdom. It isn't for us to know.

Iniquity has a tremendous pulling force. It is a mystery how it can attract and allure those who have escaped its clutches, drawing them back into the gutters of sin. Then when one really knows that the wages of sin is death and they have tasted and felt the power of God why don't they arise and do something about it? Why don't they flee to the Lord for release? I wish I were able to put into words what I know about the peace and freedom which comes from a soul set free by the power of the gospel. It seems to me every one would want this freedom. It is a mystery to me they don't!

Do you suppose when some man left all to follow Jesus, or when Martha fed him, or Mary sat at his feet, or the woman bathed his feet with her tears, that Jesus thought--"Great is the mystery of godliness"? Listen to these words from 2. Thess. 2:7--"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." Isn't it a mystery how some can be so blinded and deceived that they think they are doing God service when in reality they are against him?

Listen to this: "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." John 16:1-2 Think of that. Those who commit such crimes will think they are doing service to God. That is another mystery.

Here is another scripture to go with that one. "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." 1 Cor. 2:4-8. Now, isn't that a wonderful mystery to be revealed unto us?

Let us pray:

Our father, bless the truth as it goes out over the airwaves. We know that the preaching of the cross is to them

that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. Bless every listener in the way which they need most, giving victory and peace and thine shall be the praise through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thanks to each of you who have taken the time to listen. If we may be of some spiritual help be sure to let us know. You may write us by addressing your letter to The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Okla. We hope you will be with us again next week at the same time. We appreciate so much those who help us keep the message going forth.

Here is a song: "Where Could I Go?"

Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless each and every one and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Mo.: "So glad I can report victory today. The dear Lord is so good to us each day to give us strength, courage for soul and body. You may have heard about us selling out at Neosho, moving to Webb City... we now live in a trailer house 12x60. Sure not much room. The Hightowers bought us out. They did live in a trailer with all their children. They seem to feel as birds let out of a cage. I am happy for them. We still enjoy the Mission Trail paper... We hope to be able to get you on the air better up here. We trust you all are well and enjoying the work the Lord has called you to do. Pray for us that we can do more for the Lord. We surely want to be a light and overcomers for the Lord... oh, how I love the truth and nothing but the truth. I am glad to be on the solid rock for all other ground is sinking sand. Do pray for us as we do you."

--Katie and Asa Gibson

From Tenn.: "Please pray the Lord will touch my body and heal me. My heart is bad but there is other trouble. I don't know what it is or the cause but God knows." --Mrs. Walter Carroll

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From La.: "We cherish God's love in our hearts today and our whole desire is to keep ourselves in the center of His will. We enjoyed the Mission Trail that came yesterday and the message "Concentration". Surely we want to put forth more of a concentrated effort to serve God with our whole being. We were inspired by the article "Stolen Goods Recovered" and rejoiced at the way God used in helping the Bro. find them. If it were not for the unusual way God uses to help us at times, we might not feel that it was really an answer to our prayers. We are praying earnestly for the requests in the paper and trust God will work in behalf of each one. We have some requests that we desire the saints to pray with us about--first, we have a very urgent unspoken request which is a great burden on our heart. Then we desire prayer for our son, Roger, and his wife who are divorced, that God will save them and re-unite them. Our little grandson is losing his hearing and his parents, Chas. and Sharon, desire the Lord to heal him. We are earnestly praying that God will restore his hearing for we know that all things are possible with the Lord and there is nothing too hard for Him to do. If we live uprightly before Him, it is His pleasure to give us good gifts... I know all of you are busy with preparations for the camp meeting which is only a few days away now. We are praying earnestly that every need will be supplied and that you will have a glorious meeting... I must hurry along now. May God richly bless each of you and ever make you a blessing to others."

--Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

From Guthrie: "I hear your message of a Sunday morning from KGGF and we need more preachers to preach it straight. The message to parents was real good. If parents smoke, drink, dress like the world and partake of worldly things and not do as Bible says bring them up in way they should go, then parents are to blame for what their children do. I have been sick for some time but am better now. I know that God has been with me through it all and is taking care of me from day to day. I love the Lord and am trying to live the life he would have me to."

--Sis. Mable Been

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From Calif.: "Greetings in love of my heavenly Father. Thanks for all of your prayers for my son. Still remember him that he be touched by healing power. He is some better at times. He has attacks with stomach and has been in bed and couldn't sleep at nights. Pray earnestly that his soul be saved... I'm trusting in Jesus to complete his healing... I do know God loves him better than I do... I am writing to all the people of God."

--Sis. Opal Williams

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From Kansas: "Hope this finds you well and happy in the Lord. I went to funeral this morning. It was an old timer, 87 years old. He and I attended the Church of God, but this was when God's people believed in washing one another's feet... I suppose I always like the way St. John 13:13-14-15-17 read especially the 17th verse. The nice thing about obeying what he says in this chapter brings to my mind that he is just the same yesterday today and forever and changes not but people change... well I didn't mean to bring this all into the letter but I shall always believe every word of my Bible. I have no right to do anything else. Love to all."

--C. A. Stone

at press time

we understand:

From Arkansas: "Greetings of love in the dear name of Jesus. Every day He is dear and nearer to us. His promises seem to embrace us with an unfailing love and sweet assurance (if cashed in on) 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' 2 Cor. 12:9. As I think of the things that might not be joyous maybe a more grievous experience I must think of 2 Cor. 11:30-12:5--'I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.' We need Him at all times, desiring His will above all in our lives. This is a lovely day, the last day of school for me. The moral decay of our youth somehow gnaws at my heart. Parents are so unconcerned. I don't know if I'll be back or not. I haven't met the new superintendent... We were happy to have Kathleen and Alvin in our services Sun. I really enjoyed Sis. Carrie McMillian's message. It seems to stay so cool. My (our) garden does look nice and lots of flowers and the greenery every where surely tells us of the glory of God and His great love to the children of men. ... It doesn't look like I'll get to come to Guthrie for any of the meeting as well as I'd like to. I do hope to do more calling (house) and things for the Lord since school is out. If I can do just a little job and do it well I'll be happy and I'm sure it will please the Lord too. We've picked out the place for our chapel and have paid an installation fee on a water meter for it... but our fund is small... remember us... Thanks for your prayers and every effort. Our love,"--Sis. Lou Bray, R. 1, Box 162, Garfield, Arkansas 72732

MY INFLUENCE

My life shall touch a dozen lives
before the day is done,
Leave countless marks for good or ill
ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish,
the prayer I always pray:
Lord, may my life help other lives
it touches by the way.

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From Okla.: "Do love the Lord and want to always do His will at all times. Am so glad I know Him... I am very well--will be 88 this week. I am able to go to all of the services here and to the chapel." --Sis. Minnie Slinkard, Route 5, Box 74, Shawnee, Okla. 74801

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From Miss.: "My dear friends in Christ Jesus. I'm sending you and yours much love. It leaves us all well for which we surely do praise the dear Lord. I'm reminded of a scripture found in Psalms 139..." "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

--Bro. John Watson

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From Calif.: "Greetings in Jesus name. This leaves us yet saved and happy in the Lord... The Lord is blessing us here in Oakland. We plan our meeting to begin June 2 to 11. Would be very pleased to see you all here."

--Sis. Velma Smith

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Congratulations to another high school graduate: Mark Paul Spinks, Route 5, Box 962, Shreveport, La. 71107



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published weekly in printed form by Willie and Frances Murphey with the help of others. It is mailed free of charge to those who request it. Its purpose is to reach the hungry hearts of the unsaved everywhere with the gospel which will save them. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who feel directed by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to: THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

For some it will come true: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Let us hasten with the message which Jesus gave: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."



Broadcast Schedule

Listen for THE MISSION TRAIL weekly on one of the following stations:

RADIO STATION	LOCATION	DIAL SETTING	TIME
KGGF	Coffeyville, Kansas	690 kc.	Sunday, 8:00 a. m.
KCKW	Jena, Louisiana	1480 kc.	Sunday, 7:30 a. m.
WFPR	Hammond, Louisiana	1400 kc.	Sunday, 7:45 a. m.

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