



The Mission Trail

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THE MISSION TRAIL

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The Truth About God and Man

Radio Broadcast for July 19, 1981

Good morning, friends! What a pleasure and privilege it is to be coming your way once again by means of the radio! Today our subject is a dual one. First, I want to talk about God, then some about man and part of the time it will be concerning God and man. I will start with this scripture in Psalms 68:19-20:

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death."

The second scripture is this: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psa. 8:3-4. But more on this later. Listen to this poem:

GOD IS EVER GOOD

Whene'er I tread the highway
Or pass through leafy wood,
Methinks I hear a murmur,
"God is ever good."

He careth for the songsters
And daily gives them food;
I think I hear them singing,
"God is ever good."

To earth he sent the Savior
(We wonder how he could)
To bear our sins and sorrows;
God is ever good.

Whene'er I count my blessings,
And thank him as I should,
My soul cries out in rapture,
"God is ever good."

Whene'er I pass through trials,
And trust him as I should,
My heart is filled with glory;
God is ever good.

When I have crossed the river
And on the shore have stood,
I still shall sing his praises--
"God is ever good."

Now, more about the God of all Creation. We hope we can present Him to you in His true attributes. Although we must avoid the spirit of bitter strife and controversy, still we can not consent to a course which in the end seeks to rob us of the true concept and nature of God. The great command "Preach the Word" comes ringing down through the ages, and every holy minister of God is obligated to take his stand for the truth. This is important. We are exhorted to "speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Tit. 2:1). The Word of God presents the true standard of teaching. The Bible is our standard of God's laws. It stands for all that is good in man, and is forever opposed to all that is evil. It tells us what God is like and what He expects of us. It pronounces the last word on moral character. In fact, this is so true that many leaders of heathen religions are attempting to adjust their moral standards to those of Christianity. Jesus was the

Word made flesh.

And the mind of man has never conceived anything so noble, so elevating, so inspiring, so grand, as that one sermon on the mount. Search through all the religions of the ages, glean out every choice moral precept and delineation of human character and conduct, place the findings together in one collection, and they will bear a most wretched comparison with the divine beauty and the infinite wisdom here expressed by the Christ of the Bible. Here is given the spiritual essence of the law and the prophets. Here truth is pressed homeward to the human soul. Character and conduct are defined by the secret springs and motives of the heart. Here all pride, hypocrisy, and self-seeking stand condemned; while all the finer virtues of which the soul is capable find free expression and infinite encouragement in the words of the Beautitudes. Here a restraining influence is brought to bear upon wicked men by the solemn assertion of a future state of punishment in hell; while the righteous are assured of a great reward in heaven.

IN the Bible the way of salvation is not hidden, but is straight and narrow. There is nothing to hinder any seeking soul from coming in contact with its Maker. The very nature of God is to bless, and this He desires to do for all!

One of the greatest proofs that the Bible is the Word of God is that it transforms human lives, and accomplishes the regeneration of society. The promises of salvation and deliverance contained in its pages have proven to be a living reality in millions of instances. The words of men have never accomplished such results as these. Aristotle wrote on the "Principles of Ethics,"

but who has ever heard of his works transforming the nature of a single man from sin to holiness? Thomas Paine wrote the book "Age of Reason"; has it ever been known to reclaim a man from drunkenness and sin, as does the holy Book? The Bible bears on its face the stamp of divine inspiration and performs the work of God in the world. Millions of redeemed men and women have given their lives in its defense, and today it is loved and revered by the humble saints of God. The wonderful words of Jesus that our lips were taught to frame in childhood's early morning still cling to us right on down through old age. In the darkest hours of trial and affliction they furnish an unflinching light that leads to the brightness of a better day. When the pathway of life is pleasantest and happiest, our raptured spirits find joyous expression in thankful praise in language of the living Word. And when the darkness of the long night gathers around us and we are about to begin our untried journey to the future land--bring us the Bible, blessed Bible. It alone can give us the clear light of immortality. One writer said, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven."

And what does the Word tell us about God? That He is a perfect, conscious, intelligent Being existing from eternity, the Cause of all created things. It begins by stating: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 1:1. The writers of the Scriptures do not argue the existence of God. No, but they contain the revelation that he has made of his own nature and attributes. Listen as some of these attributes are described: He is self-existent "The Father hath life in himself." John 5:26. "For with thee is the fountain of life", Psalms 36:9. He is everlasting. "Before the mountains were brought

forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." Psa. 90:2. The high and lofty One "inhabith eternity." Isa. 57:15. Also, God is a Spirit. "John 4;24. "There is no God else beside me," Isa. 45:21. He is unchangeable. "I am the Lord, I change not." Mal. 3:6. Also "The Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Jas. 1:17. He is present everywhere. "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Jer. 23:24. He is "not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:27-28. He is all-wise. "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:13. "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his." Dan. 2:20. "Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Rom. 11:33. He is holy and just. 1 Pet. 1:16 says, "I am holy", and Titus 1:2 says: "God that can not lie." And besides all of this God is full of goodness and faithfulness. "God so loved the world," John 3:16. "His mercy endureth forever." Psa. 136:26. Sarah judged him "faithful who had promised." Heb. 11:11.

Now we understand through faith that God created the world. Also through His son, Jesus Christ, "we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins." Eph. 1:7.

And now we come to the question: "What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Psa. 8:4. This is one of the greatest questions ever asked. Or we

could phrase three questions of great magnitude, thus: What am I? From where did I come? And To where am I going? Many answers have been posed for the first, but the last two remain a mystery until we look into the Word of the Lord. Evolution of man from the lower animals utterly fails to satisfy the minds of reason. If it could be shown that man really has descended from the ape by a process of development, it would be certain that that primitive ape possessed in an undeveloped form all the marvelous faculties to be manifested later in a George Washington, or an Abraham Lincoln or a John Bunyan. Mere development cannot create nor develop new properties. So when the evolutionists declare that man descended from some simple form of primitive life, the mystery of the true origin of man's nature is not at all explained. And simply to put their date of origin a few million years further back does not account for the origin of anything. So this is no explanation whatever. Therefore, man's origin, as well as his destiny, is a subject of revelation, pointed out in the scriptures. "So God created man in his own image ... male and female created he them." Gen. 1:27. Eve is declared to be "the mother of all living." Gen. 3:20. Other Bible writers acknowledge this common origin of man. Being made in the likeness of God man does possess freedom of will, so that he can of his own choice, chart his course in life and decide his conduct. But this original state of holiness was forfeited by sin; hence in this respect and to this extent the image of God was lost. However, in the redemption of Christ, holiness is regained. In this born again state we are taught: "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is re-

newed in knowledge after the image of 'him that created him.'" Col. 3:9-10. Now let me briefly point out that man is a two-fold being. He consists of body and spirit; or body and soul. "Glorify God in your body and in your spirit." 1 Cor. 6:20. Again, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." 2 Cor. 4:16. The "outer man," or body, is mortal. Romans 6:20 speaks of "Your mortal body," This mortal body was made from the dust of the earth. It requires natural food to subsist upon. The other part of man is the immortal soul that lives on forever. Many scriptures point out that in death the soul departs from this earthly tabernacle of clay. Paul said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. The dying testimonies of thousands of saints confirm the doctrine of the scriptures in this point--that at death the soul takes its departure from the body to be in a more sacred nearness with the Lord. In the most solemn hour of life this truth is so firmly stamped upon the heart that it finds expression in language unmistakable.

Our Father, bless the message to the good of every soul. Help us all to realize the importance of so living that when this mortal body shall return to the dust, our immortal soul will take its flight to enter the realms of eternal glory and not the regions of the lost. Save every soul that will come in repentance to thee for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Thanks for a few moments of your time. Meet us at the National camp meeting of the Church of God, five miles east of Neosho, Mo. beginning July 24th. Until we meet again, this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always, and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From JAMAICA: "Holy greetings to you in the name of our Lord. It's a long time now since I have not written to you. I have been still receiving the Mission Trail and enjoy reading them. They still supply me with the spiritual food to strengthen us for the journey which will soon end. We are still battling on and Bro. Thomas is carrying on very good. The Spirit is leading him. The chapel is gone far. The inside is complete, lighted and painted. The back apartments are not quite complete as yet. The toilet and basin are installed. We have to give a break now because finance is weak at present. Later we hope to make another move... Bro. Thomas says we would love to have you with us again. We never forget your visits and the blessings we got from them. Alford your little friend has grown big and going to school. He sends greetings for you. Andrew is going to school in Kingston, J. C.... May the Lord help you to carry on the good work to the end faithfully."

--Bro. & Sis. T. Ferguson

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From Okla.: "Thought I'd drop a line and let you know that we truly appreciate getting to hear the truth over the radio each Sunday morning. I'm so very thankful that we have the Lord to turn to in these wicked times. As I was thumbing through my Bible this evening my eyes fell on Isaiah 59:19b, 'When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.' It's so good to have someone stronger than myself to fight against our enemy the devil. I think of the scriptures... 'stand still and see the salvation of the Lord' and 'This battle is not yours but God's.' I ever want to stand by the Lord and let him fight my battles for me."

--Anita Probst



BRO. LEE WHITLEY AND COMPANION SIS. JEWEL WHITLEY

It is with deep sorrow we announce the passing of Bro. Leslie Lee Whitley on July 10, 1981. He lacked a few days being 80 years of age. For many years he worked in the business of "locksmith" in Marshall, Texas. He was so very special to many. His Godly life and quiet ways provided comfort to others in times of great stress. Before his companion, Sis. Jewel died on August 5, 1978 she began a prose poem later completed by Arnett Carver:

THE OLD KEY MAN

For many years the old key man has been working on a key--One that is most precious. It was made by impressions that the Master wrought on his soul and mind. He never faltered at any time, for this key had to be so very accurate --Each notch must fit just so. He remembered well the deep cut that said --Blameless. (Sis. Jewel Whitley).

How the Master-Teacher had so impressed that on his soul! "Be ye therefore perfect" -- Oh, that took some

cutting -- and filing -- and polishing! Even after many years he was still working on that notch. He wanted it just right. There were other notches too, some perhaps not cut so deep-- But no less important to the whole design -- Gentleness, Goodness, Long-suffering, Faith. Not so many days ago while passing his little shop I looked in the window -- He had put away the orders of his customers and was lovingly working on his own precious key-- Especially those last two notches, Long-suffering and Faith. Long into the night he worked, for time was short and he wanted his key to be perfect. Then today, I took the street that passed by his shop and found the shutters on the window tightly drawn. There was no light within -- but only a sign on the door, "Closed--Gone Home."

I can't help but feel he had finally finished his key--and was trying it out on some heavenly portal. And knowing the care and love which he had put into it -- I believe he found that it works perfectly! --Arnett Carver



"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." --2 Tim. 4:6-8.

SIS. MARIE MILES

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2 the Church of God chapel, 6th and W. Warner in Guthrie was filled to overflowing with those who had come to show their respect and love for Sis. Marie Miles. Although many prayers were offered for her recovery, the Lord saw best to call her to her eternal reward July 29. At times her suffering was great, but her faith remained strong in the Lord, even to the end. For many years she had given of her time and talents to the service of the Lord. We use her own words as she describes her burden and calling in the "Pruitt Family Record": "When I received word that my mother had taken her bed, I came from California as soon as possible to help care for her. My husband and boys were willing for me to be gone. It was with saddened hearts that we laid our dear mother to rest in October 1954. Before I returned home after the funeral, my father, with tears, told of the great need of a man and his wife helping here in the publishing work and living in the home, since there were single workers with him. Little did I know at that time

that the Lord would make me know that he wanted me to come. After much consideration and prayer, and Carl's being willing, also my teen-age boys, we came in 1954, which was a great delight to my father. I have been helping in the work since that time. Lawrence, who lived here, had helped down through the years ... My father desired that Lawrence and I should continue with the printing of gospel literature after his death ... We trust that we can keep it going until God calls us Home and that someone else will feel the burden of keeping it going until Jesus comes in the clouds of glory to take those Home who have chosen to live with Him in eternity:"

--Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles

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Sis. Marie's body was taken to Memory Gardens near Summit View Cemetery northeast of Guthrie there to await the great and final resurrection of the dead. The hills of Oklahoma resounded with the voices of many saints who joined in singing, "Beautiful"! Her labors of love and words of encouragement will continue to bear fruit as the years go by.

at press time

we understand:



Bro. G. A. Nichols

Another family has suffered the loss of a dear one in Christ. Funeral for Bro. G. A. Nichols, Loranger, La., was held Saturday, July 11th. His faith and patience was manifested for years in the way he cared for his dear companion after she suffered strokes and was unable to care for herself. He dutifully nursed her through the remaining years of her life.

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It is with sincere appreciation that we extend our many thanks to each one for your prayers, phone calls, cards, letters and all acts of kindness and sympathy shown during the illness and passing of our loved one.

--The family of Gatha Nichols

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It was a great blessing to attend the Monark meeting for a few days and to know that God is still working.

We would like to extend our heart-felt thanks & appreciation to all who showed their interest in so many ways in the welfare of Sis. Marie Miles during her sickness and death. May God bless all for the many phone calls, flowers, cards and prayers; also for the food. Your kind words of encouragement and sympathy have warmed our hearts and made us to know we are not alone.

--The family of Sis. Marie Miles

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Word has been received that Sis. Eva Wilkins, age 77, died in the Golden Rule Home June 28 after having moved there with her husband about 3 months earlier.

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From Calif.: "In June I was extremely ill, was out of my head, and sometimes in a coma, from Tuesday morning until Wednesday morning, but the dear Lord miraculously undertook. All glory and praise to His dear name."

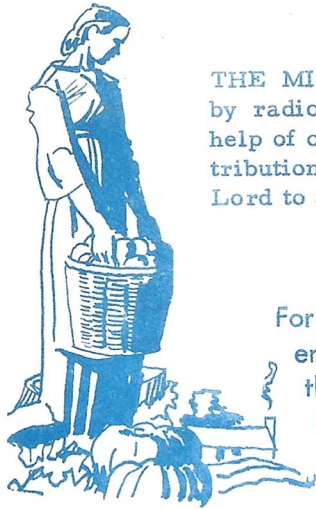
--Sis. Robena Montgomery

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Limited space does not permit the printing in this issue of all the encouraging testimonies of how God is working with the saints. His Church is indeed separate from the world. The Lord is preparing His people for the battles of these last days! We are exhorted to "be thou faithful unto death."

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This August issue is a little later than usual. Some events have delayed its printing. Thanks to all who have patiently waited, and especially to all who have helped to make it possible.



THE MISSION TRAIL, originating in Guthrie, Okla., is broadcast by radio and published in printed form by Willie Murphey with the help of others. Its principal support comes from the free will contributions of its listeners and readers. Those who are led by the Lord to assist may do so by sending their offering to:

THE MISSION TRAIL, Guthrie, Oklahoma 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

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KGGF

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