



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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What We Can Expect of New Birth

Radio Broadcast for January 23, 1983

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" John 3:3-4.

Good morning to all the listeners of the broadcast! It is indeed a pleasure to be coming your way once again by means of radio. This scripture mentions a subject which is quite common in religious circles of our day, "a born-again Christian"! That sounds good, doesn't it? I like that, but does it carry the full meaning of what a "born-again Christian should really be?" Let us examine it more carefully and find out.

Can we expect salvation to deliver us out of sin? Many people today cling tenaciously to the idea that while Christ saves the sinner by forgiving his sins, he leaves him a sinner. They believe Christ can forgive our sins and possibly even make us a bit better in our ways of living, but he can't deliver us out of sin! What a reproach upon the cause of Christ! In quoting from one writer who more or less promotes the idea that even a saved person continues to live in sin, I ask you to be the judge. Listen to this, and I quote:

"In salvation God gives to man through spiritual birth a new sinless nature like unto His Own. But what about the old sinful nature of those who are saved?

What becomes of that? It still lives on in the individual as long as that person lives in the present mortal body. When at death, the spirit of the saved departs from his body then the old nature dies. It is because the old sinful nature survives that those who have been saved can and do commit sin. This happens when, in the conflict between the carnal and spiritual, the carnal gains the upper hand." End of quote.

How far can one get from the truth, even though they profess to be teaching the plan of God? Jesus Christ lived his years on earth without the stigma or stain of a single sin. He is often acknowledged as the perfect man, or God in the flesh! Yet says the teaching of many, this same Christ will enter your heart and life, but he can do very little more than forgive sin. Are we to assume that Christ has now become suddenly weak and incapable of victory over sin in the man's heart into which he has entered? Never! The presence of Christ spells victory--victory over the daily press of temptation, victory over sin, great and small. He is surely an overcoming Christ. God's plan of salvation is a perfect one. It's a holy

plan that sees us and accepts us where we are--deep in sin--and through Christ delivers us from sin, cancelling its power over our lives. Paul says in Phil. 4:13--"I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me". Does this suggest that I can do all things except steer clear of sinful deeds, sinful thoughts, or sinful words? Surely the "all things" includes a vital surging victory over sin! It isn't hard to see how the idea of sinning hopelessness takes hold and supplants Bible holiness.

The prevalent practice of sectarian churches to induct just about anybody into the fellowship and work of the congregation, with or without the benefit of a vital experience of salvation, brings the sinful, unregenerate multitudes into their sectarian harness. And all of this may happen while one is using the smooth sounding phrase, "born-again" Christian.

But to the really "born-again" child of God, the presence of Jesus Christ in his heart and life is the power to be saintly. The truth is that now, through Christ, we don't have to sin! He has come to cancel sin's power, break its hold, and grant liberty to those who trust him for salvation. "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Eph. 2:1-3.

In sanctification, the second definite work of grace, the heart is purified and

filled with the Holy Spirit. Holiness, after all, is not an impossible mandate, but a divine privilege. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:4.

Consider who Nicodemus was when he came to Jesus by night. He was a Jew, one of God's chosen people. He was a Pharisee, one of the strictest religious sect of the Hebrews who were separated unto legal self-righteousness. He was a ruler of the Hebrews, and so a member of their council, the Sanhedrin. He was the teacher of Israel. To him others looked as to a guide in matters pertaining to God. He was one who had perhaps earnestly endeavored to fulfill the requirements of the greatest moral code the world has ever known, the Ten commandments and the Mosaic ordinances. Evidently in him was found the highest type of manhood possible under the Mosaic law and in fact, any other moral code under which man has lived.

Perhaps Nicodemus lived up to the light that he had. He constantly sought more and so, as one who desired to learn better how to live a life pleasing to God, he came to Jesus to learn of Him. Yet Jesus gave Nicodemus a simple, plain truth which he did not understand: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God". Good habits, morality and self-righteousness was not enough. One must have the transforming power of God to be made a new creature: "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new", 2 Cor. 5:17. This new creature is "the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness". Eph. 4:24. It is not enough to make a resolution or join some organization of men.

I am sure that not all will accept or understand these spiritual values. Those who desire to abide in sin will endeavor to "rationalize" their doing so. Others might say, "I don't understand it!" That doesn't mean it isn't so! Listen to 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. The greatness of salvation can never be fully understood by the natural man, but some of its greatness can be seen by comparing, or rather contrasting, it with creation. Both salvation and creation are God's work and His exclusively. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth", Gen. 1:1. Thus God brought all matter and all energy into existence.

The heavens are the work of His fingers, and the moon and the stars were ordained by Him. See Psalms 8:3. This includes not only that which man can see with the naked eye, but all that lies beyond the range of the strongest telescope. The vastness of it all is beyond the comprehension of man. The gold and copper nuggets, the iron, lead, copper and silver ores; the marbles, granites, etc. are as old as the mountains themselves. Where then did these fixed characteristics and laws come from? There is but one answer: God in His creative work brought forth each element with its fixed properties and made it subject to fixed chemical and physical laws. Man can delve deep into the secrets of geology and discover much but the subject is so vast that there is much that is still to be learned.

In the same way consider plant life. How it shows forth God's creative power! The great redwoods of the

Pacific Coast have stood there for centuries. The firs and pines of the north, the palms of the south and all other trees each serves man in its own way and is always the same for there is an unchangeable law of life within. Think also of the plant life upon the earth, the animals in the forests, the fish in the sea and it goes on and on. After thousands of years there is much left for succeeding generations to learn.

Man is God's crowning work of creation. In His own image made He him, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. He gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air and all things that move upon the earth. That man has so subdued the creation and so marvelously used it to his own good (and likewise to evil) is evidence that its mysteries can be fathomed in a large measure by the intellect of man. But man cannot by his own intellect fathom the mysteries of salvation. They must be revealed to man by the Spirit of God. It is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God", 1 Cor. 2:9-10. Then let all who are "born-again Christians" be sure they manifest Christ by a pure and sinless life.

Our Father, bless now the Word as it goes forth on the air. Grant deliverance to those struggling under the bondage of sin. Bless all those who are afflicted for we ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

Thanks to all for your help. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From La.: "The Lord is so good to us. He knows just what we need and is always on the giving hand, but He wants us to ask. Isn't that a wonderful privilege, when we think of us having a rich Father and bids us to come ask of Him the things we need, and we are so very needy, the greatest needs being the spiritual ones and He told us if we would seek Him and His righteousness first that He would add all these temporal things as we need them... Well, the 1982 Assembly meeting is in history now. While it was in progress, I was thinking so much about being there last year and Sr. Sprague, Sr. Geneva Ray and Merrill were all there. Lawrence was down here until after the meeting started. When they got back there, he was really poorly... Then this assembly all 4 of those were together in Paradise. Oh, how little would I have thought when I went with Merrill up there that in less than 10 mos. he would be gone from us. So comforting though when our loved ones have to leave us to see them go with victory. The slab was poured yesterday for the big building to be erected at our church grounds. There will be much work as well as expense to get everything there that it will take to have camp meetings. It will run into many thousands of dollars more than we have in the treasury, but we trust the Lord to supply it... May the Lord bless you much in your labors for Him."

--Sr. Alta Flynn

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From Calif.: "We are at our Christmas Assembly meeting at Pacoima, Calif. I came at the beginning, staying here to the end. We are having a very good meeting... Sis. Katherine Williams is here. We are enjoying the precious word she is bringing us, and it is having its effect."

--Sis. Hazel Clark

From La.: "We are thankful for salvation and all His benefits and to know in our hearts what it means. We don't have words to tell it as we desire to, but we desire the Lord to help us live each day so others may be able to see something in our lives that will cause them to desire the Lord and His special blessings to them. The Lord is so good to all and especially those that love and serve Him. We were thankful for the safe trip to Guthrie and back Christmas week-end. It was good just to be there with the saints and feel the presence of the Lord. We are sorry we didn't have time to get around and visit with different ones. At least we got to see the different ones that we don't get to see very often and meet a few that we hadn't met before... We have started the new chapel here, and have the slab poured. It will be lots of work, but we know that the Lord can bless and supply every need."--Kenneth and Virgie Flynn

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From Kansas: "We are glad to be able to say that we completed another year still encouraged to press onward and upward. In fact we feel like taking for our motto for '83 'Forward, forward is the battle cry.' We are determined to win our crown and in order to do so we must endure to the end. I am not tired of the journey but am still excited about pressing on for my Lord. I want to be stronger and deeper and strictly steadfast in the things of God. I want to get a close contact with God and be a real example of Christ, which is what Christianity is all about. I love the Lord today and I do want to be faithful to him and prove my love by clinging to him forever and trusting him explicitly as I trudge on along this straight and narrow path. I have a vision of the Church of God and see the beauty and splendor of it. I love it..."

--Sis. Shirley A. Knight

From S. Car.: "I trust this letter finds you all doing fine in body and soul, as it leaves me much encouraged in soul, but the body still needs a complete touch from God. Please continue to hold me up before God. I am still trusting him for both soul and body. We want to thank you for the Mission Trail paper. It surely has been a blessing to my soul . . . We enjoy the testimonies of the other saints very much."

--Sis. Edna Crummie

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From Kansas: "I guess you heard about Roy having a stroke Nov. 10, 1982. He is some better. He can sit up on side of bed and can use his arms and hands, not much use of legs. He can't stand up. We have him a wheel chair, but problem is I can't get him in and out much by myself. . . we do thank the Lord for what he has done. . . I don't get to meeting much now but do appreciate Bro. and Sis. Wilson visiting us . . . Randel still needs prayer."

--Sis. Opal Bradley

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From Colo.: "I am glad you had another good meeting. I would like to have been there but it was not possible this time. I was glad to hear so many got to come. . . It makes a lot of difference when my companion is gone. I wish we had learned of the saints there a long time ago. Bro. Darius Gibson was the first one we heard of. He came and visited us, which has been several years ago. Then one day I counted there were 17 different ministers that were to our house. We had been in Guthrie 3 or 4 times while my husband was alive and enjoyed it all. It does me good to stop and think of the blessings we have had, and my only desire is to live and please Jesus and at last have that home where all the saints will be. There will be no parting or trouble there."

--Sister Addie McEndree

From Okla.: "'O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.' Psa. 107:1-3. Jesus says in St. Luke 13:29: 'And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.' . . . Song 41: v. 1, 'To God be the glory for all he hath done; For life and salvation, the gift of his son.' v. 2, 'To God be the glory, to him it is due; His help is unfailling, to us he is true.' v. 3, 'Tho I was a captive from sin he did free; In time of affliction my healer is he.' v. 4, 'To God be the glory, His mercy extol, for all he doth give us for body and soul.' Chorus, 'To God be the glory, rejoice in his name: To God be the glory, for ever proclaim.' Truly I want the Mission Trail to come to my home in 1983."

--Sis. Eva Penner

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From Calif.: "We do thank the Lord for His many blessings this past year, and for blessing us with a good meeting here in Pacoima. I appreciate receiving the Mission Trail paper. Please keep sending it."

--Barbara Severs

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From Ala.: "I'm happy that the Lord spared me to see this new year and am very thankful how he took care of me during the year that passed. I have been having a lot of trouble with my left leg and foot for the past three weeks and really need a healing touch from the Lord, so pray for me for I know God is able to deliver, heal and keep me. . . may God bless you all and the work you are doing for the Lord is my prayer."

--Sis. Irene Richardson

From Mo.: "May grace, mercy and peace be multiplied unto you is our prayer. It is so blessed to live where we have blessed assurance that all is in God's hands and we need have no fear in any way regarding the present or future. It takes much earnest prayer to keep the victory for we know Satan is ever on hand to work against all good things that are of God, but since we are told to 'pray without ceasing', we take courage to press on... Seems so much has taken place recently to cause us to know our need of drawing real close to the Lord, deaths of those we know so well. We appreciate their lives of devotion and have confidence in their sincerity... God moves in ways that are mysterious... How grateful we are for His Word and all He has told us therein. May the Lord help us all to be doers of the Word and not hearers, only... We do remember all in prayer, there and want to rejoice with those that do rejoice and weep with those that weep..."

--Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosella Scott
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I saw the crowd in Pilate's hall,
I mark their wrathful mien;
Their shouts of "crucify" appall,
And of that shouting multitude
I feel that I am one;
And in that din of voices rude
I recognize my own
'Twas I that shed that sacred blood;
I nailed Him to the tree;
I crucified the Christ of God;
I joined the mockery.

Around the cross the throngs I see
Mocking the sufferer's groan;
Yet still my voice it seems to be
As if I mocked alone.
Yet not the less that blood avails
To cleanse away my sin;
And not the less that cross prevails
To give me peace within.

--Sel. by Sis. Grace Jones

From Oregon: "I am hoping and praying to do more for my Lord this year. I have been visiting shut-ins and praying with them, singing to some. One is dying with cancer and she is a dear old lady and submitted to go or stay, never complains. She lives here in Jefferson and is an inspiration to me and others. I think she encourages me far more than I do her."

--Sister Grace Jones
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From N. Mex.: "It is so pretty today. The sun is so bright. We have had a lot of snow, still some on the ground, but we thank and praise God for it fell so pretty and no wind to make drifts."

--Sis. Ruth Doolittle
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From Okla.: "I have before me a quote of a noted British author, William Somerset Maugham: 'If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if, it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose them also.' And how true it is becoming. May God help us to stand for what is right."

--Sis. Edith Cramer
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From Calif.: "We greet you in the brand new year of '83 in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We have embarked upon this new year not knowing what it will bring, only that our trust is in our Father to do for us all that he sees best, expecting to be deeper and more spiritual in the Lord throughout the year. We are trusting you both are yet well and encouraged. We appreciate you very much and are trusting you will prosper in the work you are doing and in your souls as well, and keep well in body. We are serving a mighty God who can do far more than we could ask or think... We all miss Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Marie and others. The Lord is calling his faithful ones home..."

--Bro. Gene and Sis. Loretta Harmon

at press time

we understand:

ASSURANCE

What the new year has in store for me
I cannot tell but I am sure
God's hand holds the key to destiny.
What doors it will unlock I do not know;
What lies beyond remains a mystery,
But I will keep my courage high and
faith steadfast,
And greet each newborn day with
smiling face,
Believing that my future rests secure
In his great love and abiding grace.

--Sel. by Sis. Grace Jones

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From Kansas: "Dear Friends and Relatives: We want to thank all of you for making our 55th anniversary and our Christmas of 1982 such a happy and memorable event... Carl and I are getting along quite well, considering all things. We are very thankful for the many blessings God has given us."

--Carl and Lula Tucker

...Just a note to say, the abscess on my chest is almost well. I am so thankful what the Lord has done for me."

--Sister Lula Tucker

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Sister Edith Cramer writes from her daughter's home in La.: "Thank God I have really been feeling at home here in La., keep busy as usual. One can always find plenty to do. Especially with a young baby. Esther JoAnn was born Dec. 24, 5 p.m., weighed 9 lbs. 9 oz. and is 21 inches long, a bouncing baby girl. I have fallen in love with her. She is so precious and begins to notice people and objects now."

--Sister Edith Cramer

We share in the loss and sorrow of David and Carolyn Denver. Funeral for his father was held in Wichita on January 5th.

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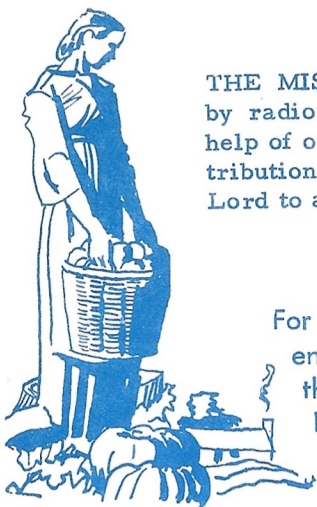
Sister Violet Benson wrote how her husband, Bro. W. J. Benson was stricken while driving home from meeting in Oregon, Nov. 21. He became unable to drive or even walk. She drove the car on home and the saints came to their rescue, calling on the Lord and rendering their services. After several weeks he is much improved. She went on to write: "Now, Dec. 29, '82 he is able to be up and around, mostly without his walker and eating hearty and really doing fine. Oh, what a mighty God we serve." --Violet and W. J. Benson

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From Mo.: "We were so happy to be in the last part of the good, assembly meeting... it had been quite awhile since we had been in Guthrie. But, the silent reaper had been there. And some were absent because of sickness. The Lord blessed us with a good and safe trip, and thank the Lord for it, and also, the good services and beautiful singing... The day before Christmas, we went to north Mo. and attended our brother-in-law's funeral. Please remember Emma in prayer. She has arthritis so bad. She is at home." --Sis. Eunice Cole

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After many beautiful days this winter, the ground is white with a light new-fallen snow this evening of January 18. Thanks to all who help us plant the truth by radio and print! --Bro. Willie



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

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