



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
THE MISSION TRAIL MARCH, 1983

Who Are You Seeking to Please?

Radio Broadcast for February 6, 1983

Good morning, good morning to each and every listener of the broadcast. I say, once again I am so happy to be coming your way with a short gospel message and I hope today finds each of you well and encouraged in the Lord. Let us begin with a scripture in 1 Thess. the second chapter and verse 1:

"For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us." Now today I want to ask a question and each of you if you will just ponder this over in your minds, whom are you seeking to please most. You think about that. Who are you seeking

to please most of all? And while you meditate on that listen to this poem, "Learn a Little Every Day", and if we can just learn a little as we go through life each day, why, who knows what we may learn before life is over?

Little rills make wider streamlets,
Streamlets swell the river's flow,
Rivers join the ocean billows,
Onward, onward as they go.

Life is made of smallest fragments,
Shade and sunshine, work and play,
So may we with greatest profit,
Learn a little every day.

Kindest seeds make boundless harvests,
Drops of rain compose the showers,
Seconds make the flying minutes,
And the minutes make the hours.

Let us hasten then and catch them,
As they pass us on our way,
And with honest true endeavor,
Learn a little every day.

Let us read some striking passage,
Cull a verse from every page,
Here a line and there a sentence,
'Gainst the lonely time of age.

At our work or by the wayside,
While the sunshine's making hay,
Thus we may by help of heaven,
Learn a little every day.

So I hope that you and I will be able to learn a little each day as we pass through life. Now back to this thought ... the question that I would like to ask each one, Who are you seeking to please? Now there is a certain attitude in the world ... people become ... independent and this independent attitude says, well, I'm not going to please anybody. I'm going to do just what I want to do. I'm not trying to please anybody else but myself. And so when the apostle Paul would come up with a scripture like this one I gave you and he says, "not as pleasing men, but God ..." well, especially that first part, "not as pleasing men". There would be those that say, "yes, that's it, not as pleasing men. I'm not trying to please men at all." And so they would just latch right onto that and just say, "well, no, we're not trying to please anybody." And then down here in the 6th verse it says, "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ." So they would say, "Yes, I sure agree with that. We're not seeking to please men. We're just seeking to please ourselves." And in fact, there are a couple of other verses that just fit in with this that those same people might agree whole-heartedly with. It says ... here in Colossians 3:22 about servants obeying their masters ... "not with eye-service, as men-pleasers"; "Ahah," they would agree, "I'm not trying to be men-pleasers."

Then Ephesians 6:5 brings out this same thought. It says: "Not with eye-service as men-pleasers" so these scriptures might tend to bring out the thought, well

no, you're not supposed to try to please anybody else--men-pleasers, why, not at all! Well, really, friends, now let's get this thing in proper perspective. This is important! Are you seeking to please yourself most of all? Is that your number one goal in life? I'm afraid if it is, we need to look at some more scriptures.

For instance, let me show you. Here in 2 Tim. 3 and 4 it speaks about, "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"

So if your number one goal is that "I'm going to please myself; let the rest of the folks do what they will," then before long you might find yourself ... seeking the pleasures that just satisfied your own selfish desires, just going your own way, regardless of God or other people. ... "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;" In fact, this is what the scriptures tell us is going to come to pass in the last days. People are going to be like this. They are going to just seek to please themselves and their own pleasures more than to please God.

In Titus 3 and 3: "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another." There they were living in lusts and pleasures just doing the thing that would please them. So I say that's not God's plan for folks that just seek to please themselves, regardless of what others may think about it or do. I realize that we are not to just be, we might say the servants of men, and just seek to please men, but our priorities should be like this, number one: first of all it should be to please God. This would be above pleasing self or above pleasing others.

Now it is said of Moses, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season", and so he chose to please God more than to serve the pleasures of sin for a season. And in Revelation 4:11 we find these words, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Can't you see we are here today because it pleased God to let us be here? Our number one objective should be to please Him first and most of all. Now, those who don't seek to please Him, listen again: "And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time." 2 Pet. 2:13. So those who just want to go around and seek pleasures--that's all. Where can we have the most fun, the best time and all this sort of thing, Listen, James has something to say about this. "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter." There are those that just have lived in pleasure on the earth. They haven't sought to please others or to please God, but just themselves. Number one will be to please myself. Do you know what 1 Tim. 5:6 says about this: "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

There are some folks today that are living in the flesh and actually are dead in the spirit, because they are living after the pleasures of the world. And consequently they are not pleasing God. In fact, sometimes they don't even please themselves very well. Now, it is said in 1 Cor. 10 beginning with verse five: "But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness." Verse 6 goes on to say: "Now these things were our

examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Now that is a reference, of course, to Exodus 32 and 6. The people had Aaron make them a golden calf and they danced around it and worshipped and all this sort of thing and God was so displeased... "And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play."

This is one thing which is of great concern to me. It's the conditions that exist today, when people are so anxious to seek revelry and play and go some where for entertainment and the satisfaction of the flesh, just seeking after things that are of the pleasures of the world. It is said in Romans 15:1, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." So here again we are placed under obligation to please other people. "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification." In other words, where we might be a help or benefit in doing God's will after we please Him first, then it would please God for us to be of service to others. "For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me." And so Christ's mission to this world was to please His Heavenly Father. Do you remember what the voice said;... "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And it is said, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Oh, dear ones, if we

can please God, this is the most important of all. The apostle Paul again says, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Corinthians 12:10. And again in Psalms 149:4, "For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation." And in Hebrews 13 and verse 21: "Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." One more scripture, 1st John 3:22, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."...

Our Father, help us to do the things day by day that are pleasing in thy sight and we are sure it will be to the glory of God, if we'll be diligent in doing so. Bless each listener this day in the which they need and we'll surely give you the praise in Jesus name.

Thank you friends, for a few moments of your time. If we may be of some help to you be sure to let us know. Until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying God bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

Testimonies

From Calif.: "We send greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. We are thankful for all the sweet blessings of the Lord. He's so good to us every day ... Bro. Gene will be celebrating his 89th year the 9th of Feb.... the Lord has given him a long life.... Bro. Bryan and Sis. Sheri Rich have their new son, Nathan born January."

--Sis. Loretta Harmon

From Okla.: "The Lord has been so good to us. He speaks the word and the snow covers the ground, then He speaks again and it is gone. What a mighty God we serve. I'm glad I'm one of His chosen few. I am so glad I'm a child of the King... We had good Bible study. We are studying the second coming of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. O how I'm looking forward to that day. Keep me on your prayer list that I will stay ready and keep ready until His appearing..."--Sis. Vera Mae Hawkins

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From Calif.: "I remember when driving to see my mother in Washington some years ago. I was traveling alone. I stopped at a rest stop and got a drink of water and rested awhile. There was a bus load of young girls in rest rooms washing up and chatting happily about their outing they were on. They had a woman bus driver. After I left (before they did) my car started weaving back and forth and I could not control the steering, so pulled off highway to a service station to see what was wrong with car. They put it on rack and checked it completely (while I was still praying a silent prayer) and could find nothing wrong. Just as I got back on highway and about 2 miles past on-ramp, the bus driver had gone over an embankment killing everyone on bus. She was driving too fast, and brakes weren't holding and she lost control going down hill. I feel that God had my car act up so I'd get off highway so run-a-way bus wouldn't run into me. It was truly a miracle I was not in that accident."

--Helen Carson

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From N. Mex.: "I am so thankful and praise God so much for feeling so well as I do ... We are having pretty days now after the snow... it is wonderful to have bright sun shining."

--Sis. Ruth Doolittle

FREED FROM PRISON

In a cold dark prison bound with chains,
 That dear disciple lay--
 When suddenly a light shone round,
 As bright as if 'twas day.
 The heavy chains fell off his hands,
 He lifted up his eyes.
 And lo! a shining angel stood
 And said to him arise!
 The heavy prison door swung back,
 As of its own accord
 And Peter then became aware
 He walked beside the Lord.
 Some cry in wonder as they read and say,
 How could this be?
 But that same angel swung aside,
 The prison doors for me.
 He freed my soul from sin's domain
 So I can walk abroad,
 And shall no longer be enslaved,
 For I belong to God.

--Grace Jones

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From Kansas: "Greetings once again in the precious name of Jesus. God has been good to us during this ice storm. My lead-in wire was close to falling limbs. It looked as if any more fell they would surely take my wire, but God protected it for me. They said there were 300 families here without heat, and that it will take three months to clean up the limbs etc.... I haven't had the flu or a cold. Thank the good Lord... Our Fort Scott radio station is out. I guess the ice and wind tore the tower down. It being down caused KGGF to come in so plain. I enjoyed your message Sunday... Don't take my name off your mailing list..."

--Sis. Mamie Norcutt

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From Okla.: "Pray all are well. Thank the Lord He has spared me to see this much of 1983. Pray for me as I'm praying for you all..."

--Sis. Mary Anna Brown

From Calif.: "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Ps. 118:24. Greetings in Jesus' name. I've been reading The Mission Trail many years. In one of the recent ones, 'The King's Letters' it said, 'If you belong to God you are a child of the King,' so I rejoice to be a child of the King. I thank Him each day for salvation. I want to just live for Him day by day, just one day at a time."

--Sister Geneva Pierro

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From Kans.: "We are surrounded by beautiful snow and it has caused some problems about work, school and all, but the Lord is blessing and helping his children. Most of us are managing to get around to our jobs, etc. The weather can cause man to change his plans in a hurry and really change things around. I believe the Lord sends such things to remind man of his limitations and remind us of a higher power that we need to look to and depend on. ... I am much encouraged and very determined to keep pressing the battle on. 'Forward, forward is the battle cry; Onward, onward to our home on high.' May the Lord continue to bless you both in every way is my prayer."

--Sis. Shirley Knight

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From Miss.: "...place my name on The Mission Trail mailing list. Come June, 1983 I will be 87 years old. I thank God to be back at home, very slow getting around, but my heart is still fixed on Jesus. I know I don't have many miles to go now. Please pray for me that I'll be able yet to help some lost loved ones to find the way Home."

--Sis. Olen Williamson

NOTE: In August of '81 Sis. Williamson fell and broke both pelvis bones and has had a long recovery, being absent from her home most of the time. Pray the Lord to speed her recovery. --WCM

FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST

To triumph now should be your aim,
 At any cost of wealth or fame,
 Let nothing keep you down;
 Press through the trials hard,
 Both night and day live for the Lord.
 Let no one take your crown.
 There is a way which few have trod,
 It leads to wealth that's found in God.
 True riches in Him you shall find,
 For He can heal both lame and blind,
 And bid the weary rest;
 Then pay no heed to Satan's cries,
 Stop both your ears against his lies;
 For Christ's sake stand the test.
 We here do send true words of cheer
 To friends and foes both far and near,
 That all may see His love;
 We'll tell you how you e'er can stand,
 And with Christ walk hand in hand,
 And gain a home above.
 But you must now his will obey,
 Walk circumspectly every day,
 Or you will fall and fail,
 What'er surrounds make first the Lord,
 And thus you shall prevail.
 As we now these few lines submit,
 We to our God your souls commit,
 And may He work with power;
 May He now make you firm and true,
 'Mid trials or tests with power endue,
 Until your dying hour. --Cora Slifer

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From Pa.: "On Dec. 31st the Lord called my husband out of this life. He had heart failure. He met his appointment...I will not question God's wisdom. I know he never makes a mistake... Thank God for the exceeding rich and precious promises. For they are yea and amen, to every one that believeth. I thank God for His eternal Word...also His over-ruling power... To do God's will is my highest aim at any and all cost...I have an unspoken request before the Lord. I am in the battle of affliction. Pray that my faith be increased." --Sis. Cora Slifer

From La.: "I received the Mission Trail yesterday and read it all through without stopping, enjoyed all of the king's letters. I love all of my brothers and sisters--the whole family of God. I'm acquainted with most of those who wrote. I love every soul in the world and pray for them for I don't want a one to perish, neither does our heavenly father will that any be lost, and that is why he is sparing this old world... Oh, I'm so glad for God's mercy toward me, to send his Holy Spirit to deal with my heart to show me my needs, and short comings and then to forgive. I love Him and his way more than ever. I'm happy and content. The word szys godliness with contentment is great gain. Some people are reaching out for the gain of this world, but I'm so thankful to be content with the things he supplies. He said having food and raiment let us therewith be content, --just so we have Jesus. He's all we need. He will supply every thing for soul and body. Yes, keep sending the Mission Trail."

--Sister Myrtis Flynn

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From Calif.: "I want you to know I have not given up the fight against the devil. I hope and trust that you folks are well and enjoying God's blessings. It is of interest to me to hear about the saints in different parts of the country. I like to read their testimonies. It saddened my heart to hear about the passing of Bro. Lawrence and also Sis. Geneva. I pray that God will comfort the families left behind. I remember well those days when Sis. Geneva and I were both single girls and she was making plans to marry Bro. Hyrum. We both received good counsel from Sis. Mattie Wilson. Some of the bitter trials I have been through were no doubt good for my soul. They kept me more humble than I would have been otherwise."

--Sister Edith Reavis

at press time

we understand:

YOUNG AND OLD

Young and old must live together
In this life we all must share
Just because they have grown older
Doesn't mean that they don't care.

If young and old could get together
I think we would better understand
That they really aren't much different,
Everyone reach out and take a hand.

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Congratulations to Mark and Lori La-Croix on the birth of their daughter, Holly Linette, born February 20.

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Congratulations to Dwane and Connie Sorrell on the birth of Jennifer DeAnn January 21.

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Our hearts were saddened by the passing of Bro. Luther Reed on Feb. 12. For many years he, his sisters, and also his parents were active in the Church of God. It was a joy long to be remembered to hear him and his sisters sing: "My Lord Keeps a Record"! We pray the Lord to bless Sister Lottie Buchanan and all other relatives of the family.

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Another pioneer minister of many years has slipped away from the saints on earth Feb. 17. At the time of his death Bro. Zedore Francisco was living in Bakersfield, Calif.

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Word has been received of the death of Henry Lounds who had been living out East. The body was returned to Okla. City for funeral Feb. 22.

From La.: "I am well and thanking the Lord for His love and blessings. I was 80 years old January 18, 1983. Keep sending The Mission Trail. My love to all."

--Bro. C. C. Carver

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From Mo.: "I'm still pressing on for the Lord, trusting by faith and not by sight. We are so thankful for all His many blessings to us. I thank Him for all things... I have appreciated the Mission Trail this year so much. It seems the messages are just what I need. I've rejoiced much reading the Word. Oh, the King's letters were so good too... Thank the Lord, I'm a child of the King!"

--Sister Lena Bowman

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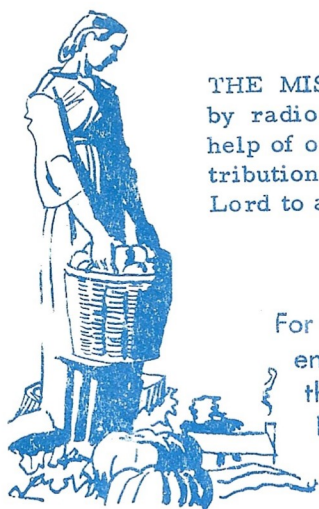
From La.: "It is about time for me to send you a little check to keep the Mission Trail coming my way. I always enjoy reading it for we can get much encouragement to read the testimonies of others and all the good messages and articles and letters from the children of God... I still love the Lord and expect by God's help and grace to be faithful until my life is ended. Pray for me as I pray for you."

--Sis. Elva Joiner

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Our hearts and spirits were refreshed by the fellowship and hospitality of the saints in Prattsville, Ark. Sunday, Feb. 13. Frances and I were glad to have Sister Maybelle Pruitt and Sister Maude Hornbeck accompany us on this trip. We were there for two services on Sunday and returned home Monday. Our prayers go with this issue that God may bless it to all who read.

--WCM



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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."

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