



Gospel Broadcasting and Publishing
The Mission Trail

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VOL. 19, NO. 9

THE MISSION TRAIL

SEPTEMBER, 1983

The Wickedness of Sodom

Radio Broadcast for August 14, 1983

Good morning, friends, good morning. As I so often say, I'm certainly happy to be coming your way once again with a short gospel message. I have my Bible on my knee and I really have some scriptures I want to share with you today.

So to those who would think that they can live any way they please in this world and it doesn't matter to the Lord, let me give you the scripture number one in Genesis the 13th chapter and the 13th verse: "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." Now, if you will notice this is in Genesis. We trace the record of Sodom and Gomorrah like a silver thread through the Bible all the way from Genesis to Revelation and Jude speaks of it. And Revelation speaks of cities spiritually known as Sodom. So, I tell you, people better wake up if they think they can live any way they please and get by before the Lord, because He is taking notice and it does make a difference.

Again we find in Genesis 18 and verse 20: "And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;" Now, this was when He was going down to see how the wickedness was in that place. And so the cry was: it was very great and they were terrible sinners before the Lord.

Going on over to chapter 19 and verse 23 we find these words after this trans-

action or describing this transaction of the Lord, how He destroyed those cities: "The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground." Even the very ground wouldn't grow grass after the Lord had rained fire and brimstone upon those cities.

Now, I say it's important how people live. They ought to wake up because this idea that some folks have, "Well, the Lord is a loving God and He wouldn't punish anyone." That's not true. The Lord is loving. That part is true, yes, but not this fact that the people will not be punished, because they certainly will be when they know the truth and they will not accept it.

Now listen: verse 27 here of Genesis. This is the 19th chapter of Genesis now: "And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the

smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace." Can you imagine the sight that greeted Abraham's view that morning as he looked down upon the cities of the plain. Smoke was rolling up there. It was just like a furnace.

Now, I'd like to share with you also this poem by John Greenleaf Whittier:

THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN

Get ye up from the wrath of God's
terrible day!
Ungirded, unsandalled, arise and away!
'Tis the vintage of blood, 'tis the ful-
ness of time,
And vintage shall gather the harvest of
crime!

The warning was spoken; the righteous
had gone,
And the proud ones of Sodom were feast-
ing alone.
All gay was the banquet; the revel was
long,
With the pouring of wine and breathing
of song.

'Twas an evening of beauty; the air
was perfume,
The earth was all greenness, the trees
were all bloom;
And softly the delicate viol was heard
Like the murmur of love or the notes
of a bird.

And beautiful maidens moved down in
the dance,
With the magic of motion and sunshine
of glance;
And white arms wreathed lightly, and
tresses fell free
As the plumage of birds in some
tropical tree.

(Now, I don't know how well this may
have described what was going on, but at

least it presents a thought, doesn't it?)

Where the shrines of foul idols were
lighted on high,
And wantonness tempted the lust of the
eye;
Midst rites of obsceneness, strange,
loathsome, abhorred,
The blasphemer scoffed at the name of
the Lord.

Hark! the growl of the thunder--the
quaking of earth!
Woe, woe to the worship, and woe to
the mirth!
The black sky has opened--there's flame
in the air--
The red arm of vengeance is lifted and
bare!

Then the shriek of the dying rose wild
where the song,
And low tone of love had been
whispered along;
For the fierce flames went lightly o'er
palace and bower,
Like the red tongues of demons, to
blast and devour!

Down--down on the fallen the red ruin
rained,
And the reveler sank with his wine-cup
undrained;
The foot of the dancer, the music's
loved thrill,
And the shout and the laughter grew
suddenly still.

The last throb of anguish was fearfully
given;
The last eye glared forth in its madness
on heaven!
The last groan of horror rose wildly
and vain,
And death brooded over the pride of the
plain!

--John Greenleaf Whittier

Friends, can you imagine the sight which that was? The last person, every last one of them in that city of wickedness that was left there, was destroyed. Can you imagine the silence as the smoke rose up there into heaven after God destroyed those cities? Oh, friends, this is a warning to those who should follow and it might surprise you to know that reference is made to Sodom in the book of Isaiah, the book of Jeremiah, the book of Deuteronomy, that of Lamentations and Ezekiel and over toward the end of the prophets in Amos 4 and I would like to share with you just briefly a thought here beginning with verse 6: "And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered. So two or three cities wandered unto one city, to drink water; but they were not satisfied: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord." So here, the prophet is pointing out the fact that sometimes God withholds the rain to cause people to awaken to their need.

"I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have sent among you the pestilence after the manner of Egypt: your young men have I slain with the sword, and have taken away your horses; and I have made the stink of your camps to come up unto your nostrils: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. I have over-

thrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel. For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The Lord, The God of hosts, is his name."

Oh, what a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, and yet, such is going to be the case of those who refuse the gospel. You might also be interested in knowing that Zephaniah spoke of Sodom. Matthew 10 and beginning with verse 14 speaks about this. These are the words of Jesus himself. He spoke of Sodom. Listen:

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

Dear ones, can it be, could it possibly be more tolerable for Sodom in the day of judgment than for some other people?

Those are the words of Jesus, they are not of my own origin. They are the words from the scriptures. Surely, if He said it, I say it must be so!

Again we find a reference here in 2 Pet. and, let me see, 2nd chapter and verse 6: "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live

ungodly;" So, as I say, as a scarlet thread through all the scriptures from Genesis to Revelation this is referred to as a warning for those who should later come.

Jude, seventh verse: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Oh, may the Lord stir our hearts, and cause the people of our beloved nation and the countries round about to have a fear of God before their eyes. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." We are not to fear Him because of the dread of some punishment, and yet, we are to know that if we refuse, if we resist, if we rebel, if we will not follow the teachings of the Lord, surely judgment is coming, punishment is coming and those who say that, "Oh, we can just live any way we want to and get by"--you may get by now, but remember, dear ones, there is a day of vengeance coming. "Vengeance belongeth unto me, saith the Lord."

Our Father, bless the message to the good of every listener today. Work upon the hearts of those who may be wandering away from the Lord and please, Lord, save them 'ere it be too late, for Jesus sake. Amen.

Thank you, friends, for a few moments of your time. We appreciate those who help us keep the broadcast on the air.

And if we have been a blessing, we would certainly be pleased to hear from you. So I say until we meet again this is Willie Murphey saying may the Lord bless and keep you always and a very cheerful goodbye!

SCENES FROM LIFE

"Today upon a bus, I saw a lovely maid with golden hair,

"I envied her, she seemed so gay, and I wished I were as fair.

"When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle; she had one foot, and used a crutch, but as she passed, she had a smile.

"Oh, God forgive me when I whine; I have two feet, the world is mine.

"And when I stopped to buy some sweets, The lad who sold them had such charm, I talked with him, he said to me, 'It's nice to talk to men like you.' You see, he said, 'I'm blind.'

"Oh, God forgive me when I whine; I have two eyes, the world is mine.

"Then, as I passed along the way, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play; it seemed he knew not what to do. I stopped for a moment; and then I said, 'Why don't you join the others, dear?' He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.

"Oh, God forgive me when I whine; I have two ears, the world is mine.

"With feet to take me where I'd go,
"With eyes to see the sunsets glow,
"With ears to hear what I would know,
"I'm blessed indeed,
"The world is mine.

"Oh, God forgive me if I whine."

--Sel. by Sis. Lou Bray

JESUS CHRIST LIVES!

Jesus lived, He lived for sinners,
Outcast, in the world He made;
Lived, that in His blessed Person
God's full grace might be displayed.

Jesus died, He died for sinners;
On the Cross He cried, "Forgive!"
Died, that lost and ruined rebels
Through His precious blood might live.

Jesus rose, and went to Heaven,
Proving that the work was done --
Sweet assurance that the Father
Was well pleased with His Son.

Testimonies

From Ark.: "I'm still feasting on my stay at Monark. In all; I got 21 services, four of the Prayer services early morning, each brought a real blessing to me. I felt my need and dependency of our Lord, besides a burden for our lost and other needs. I thought of the phrase in the text: "thy people shall be my people..." Never before had I felt so vividly the love and oneness of God's people and to think they are my people and I love God's church and am thankful that one day through God's tender mercy and an honest heart I was led into it."

--Sis. Lou Bray

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RIGHT WHERE I AM

Right where I am, I must be strong
And hum a little song.
Tho' pain and sorrow, fear and loss
May nail me to the cross.
Right where I am I must be kind
In word and deed, in heart and mind.
Not somewhere else, sometime, somehow,
But where God places me right now.
Right where I am I must be brave
This is my test--the test God gave
Altho' I long for higher tasks,
Right here I must do what God asks.
Right where I am I must see love,
Not on some path that leads above
To sunkist heights I might have trod.
Right where I am I will find God.
God is my help in every need.
God does my every comfort feed
God walks beside me--guides my way
Every moment of the day.

--Sel. by Sis. Lou Bray

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From Okla.: "I received the Mission Trail, thank you very much... My husband is feeling better but still in bed. His foot looks better also, but still remember him in your prayers please."

--Sis. Eva Hardman

From Kansas: "Praise God for salvation and the privilege to serve the most High God. I am really glad to be a child of God and find His service most sweet, as one song says, "I Love to Serve My Jesus" and I so desire to be faithful and true to Him. He has been exceedingly good to me and has never failed me nor let me down so I want to live so He can trust me and depend on me to endure to the end. I sure wish all humans could reason well and make the wise choice of following the Lord all the days of their life. But it seems that the pull of the flesh is so strong that most people cannot resist it but must cater to it and let the devil rule their lives. But praise God there is a better way where the Spirit can be triumphant and we can let the Lord control our lives. I do appreciate the straight and narrow way and am so glad I found it. Praise the name of the Lord! I appreciated getting to Monark for the first weekend of the meeting and enjoyed it and received a blessing."

--Sis. Shirley A. Knight

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From Calif.: "Oh how we enjoy your Mission Trail papers... I am so thankful the print is large enough I have no trouble in reading it. We hope you dear ones are well and rejoicing in your souls for all the blessing that God is sending to all of us."

--Bro. & Sis. H. P. Huskey

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From La.: "I am still on the road to heaven and it won't be long till I will be there. I will be 87 in Nov. and am really frail in body. The Lord blesses me. He is so good to us. I surely miss Sis. Rubye Quave. Her suffering is over. She prayed for people over the phone when she could not go to them. She prayed for me. She will be missed by all who knew her. I do my own cooking... pray for me." --Sis. Mary Bush

The Old Oaken Arbor

("Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you," Deut. 4:23)

How dear to my heart was God's grace in my childhood,
As in fond recollection past blessings I view;
The early-time saints of this grand Reformation
And the Truth I still treasure, my infancy knew.
The freedom from Babylon and sectish confusion;
The long tear-stained altar, where gladly I fell:
The throngs of God's people made joyful together
And e'en the brush arbor, it thrills me to tell.
The old oaken arbor, the brush covered arbor,
The Heaven filled arbor, it thrills me to tell.

The truth of God's Word as we heard, was a treasure,
As time after time we returned to learn more;
And now in this wicked and evening-time gleaning
Still gladly we treasure those Truths as of yore.
We learned that all sinful and selfish indulgence,
Or trusting in money displeases our King;
But dying to modern-time man-made devices,
Full trust in the Lord was the homage we'd bring.
The old oaken arbor, the brush covered arbor,
The Heaven filled arbor; how gloriously we'd sing.

How sweet from God's servants the news of redemption,
Made real in our lives, for in sin we were lost;
No selfish reserves nor conditions were asked for,
But, "Lord, save my poor soul, whatever the cost."
But now far removed, --geographically speaking;
A "tear of regret will intrusively swell;"
But the saddest of all, that some leaving this treasure,
Saying, "We were fanatics, --no longer we'll tell
Of the old oaken arbor, the brush covered arbor,
The heaven filled arbor where God we first knew."

O my God! in great mercy look down from above;
Give wisdom to the old-time saints, filled with love
That we, e'er the great day of vengeance is come,
Might win back some "prodigal" to where they begun.
Lord help us contend for the Faith, as you said;
Live a life that will prove by Thy hand we are led.
So that joy in its fullness, as in childhood we found,
Might continue through life, as for Glory we're bound.
O the old oaken arbor, the brush covered arbor,
The Heaven filled arbor where God I first knew.

--Bro. Erle E. Forbes.

at press time

we understand:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bro. C. C. Carver and Sis. Nellie Key have announced their plans to be married at 3:00 p.m. September 17 in the "Fellowship" Tabernacle on highway 380, 3 miles south of Xenia, Ohio. All are welcome. We wish for them God's richest blessings.

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Congratulations to Curtis Ray Williams and Karen Ann (Bock) Williams who were married Saturday, August 13th. We wish them much happiness.

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Congratulations to Darrin Gentry and Cindy Loftis whose plans are to be married in Prattsville, Ark. Aug. 20. May their lives be filled with happiness.

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Congratulations to Alferd and Martha Classen, who on August 6th commemorated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

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It was wonderful to be in a few days of the Monark meetings once again. The blessings of the Lord were freely given and saints came from far and near to participate in the 46th Annual Camp-meeting of The Church of God at Monark Springs, Mo. It seemed to me that attendance was more than ever before. Also there are quite a number of new cabins being built on the grounds. And the parking spaces for motor homes, campers and trailers were well filled. We pray the Lord will give guidance and blessings that His saints may truly say His service grows 'Sweeter as the Years Go By!'

In Memory

Bro. Eugene Harmon, a minister of the reformation for many years, finished his earthly pilgrimage on August 4th, at the age of 89 years. His father, Bro. George Harmon was one of the early day pioneer ministers. Bro. Gene's care has taken much time and strength from his companion in recent months. Remember her in this time of sorrow: Sis. Loretta Harmon, 507 "A" Street, Orland, Calif. 95963.

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Another faithful saint has gone on to her great reward. Sister Rubye Quave died Aug. 3rd in the Golden Rule Home. She had been afflicted for some time, but when we recently visited her she was of good courage and her faith was holding strong.

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We extend our sympathy and prayers to Marion and Mable Melot and family on the death of their daughter, Sharon, who was buried August 4th.

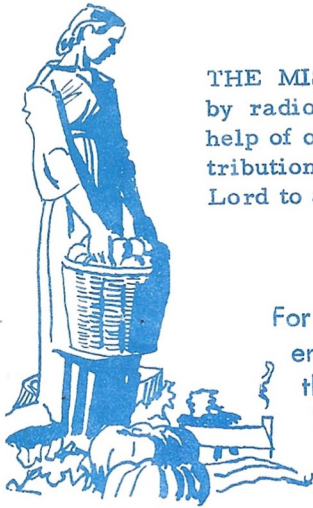
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From Ill.: "I have a blood clot in my left leg, but I don't think it is too bad. It is in the small blood vessels... I know God can take care of me. There are many prayers going up for me."

--Sis. Mildred Snell.

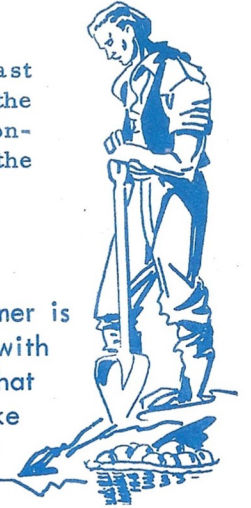
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September 1st marks the fifteenth anniversary this broadcast has been heard over KGGF. With cooler weather coming reception should improve. Thanks to all who are helping with expenses.



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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Sunday, 8:00 a. m.

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