

The Old Paths

Intro –

1. Israel had stumbled and given up on God - in turmoil as a result
2. **Jer. 6:13-16** – ask for the old paths - the Lord’s way
3. Some have wondered far from the old path in many places today.
4. The Lord’s plea is the same - go back to the old path, His standard of our life.

Discussion –

I. THE PROBLEM

- A. Judah had rejected the Lord, as Israel had before
- B. Were following the idols from the nations around them
- C. Permeated all of society (least to greatest, prophet to priest) (**Jer. 6:13**)
- D. Declared peace, when there is no peace (**Jer. 6:14**)
- E. Were not even ashamed at their sin – they did not know how to blush (**Jer. 6:15**)
- F. They had stumbled from the ‘ancient ways’ (**Jer. 18:12-17**)
- G. The Lord offered them yet another chance to turn around, but they refused (**Jer. 6:16-17**)

II. THE CALL OF THE LORD (V. 16)

- A. Stand in the ways and see
 - Amid all the directions you could go, stop and observe the outcome
- B. Ask for the old paths
 - The ‘old path’ was better because of what it represented – walking with the Lord
- C. Where the good way is
 - The ‘old path’ wasn’t just better because of age – it’s outcome
- D. And walk in it --> Rest for your souls
- E. Has always been to return and remain in Him
 1. **Is. 8:19-20** – “Should not a people seek their God?... To the law...”
 2. **Phil. 4:9** – “The things you learned, received, heard, saw, these do”
 3. **2 Thess. 2:15** – “Stand fast and hold the traditions you were taught”
- F. To select the way that leads to His blessings
 1. **Jer. 7:22-24** – “obey my voice ...it will be well with you”
 2. **Mt. 11:28-30** – “come unto me...I will give you rest”

-----APPLICATION-----

I. GUIDE – GOD’S WORD

- A. Many stumble off the old path by putting aside the divine guide - God's word. The people here had rejected the law of the Lord (**Jer. 6:19**)
- A. **Ps. 119:105, 133**. - your word is a lamp unto my feet
 - B. **Ps. 25:4-5** -
 - C. The Bible is the only book that tells how we got here (**Gen. 1-2**), our purpose (**Eccl. 12:13-14**), where we are going when we die.
 - D. We need nothing else (creed book, manual, etc), the bible is complete and all sufficient (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; Col. 2:10** – complete in him (Christ); **2 Tim. 4:2** - preach the word; **2 Pt. 1:3** – all things pertaining to life and godliness).

E. Departure from God's word begins when we lose our appreciation for authority or when we do things because that's the way we've always done it. (reference to Wednesday evening study)

II. FAITH

- A. There is but one faith (**Eph. 4:5; Jude 3; Phil. 1:27**)
- B. The Faith = The gospel (**Gal. 1:10-13, 23-24**). - preaching the gospel = preaching the faith
- C. The gospel is the power to save (**Rom. 1:15-16; 1 Cor. 2:2-5**)
- D. We must get back to the faith of the gospel! Many have put their faith in men or in religious organizations rather than in the saving power of God!
- E. There will always be those seeking to draw us away from the faith (**2 Pt. 2:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:1-5**)

III. CHURCH

- A. There is but one (**Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:24**) --- one body, the body is the church, therefore one church
- B. Not "a", but "the" (**Acts 8:1,3; Gal. 1:13**)
- C. Jesus only built only one (**Matt. 16:18**)
- D. Jesus is only the head of one (**Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18**)
- E. Denominations started too late to be the church
 1. **Zech. 1:16; Isaiah. 2:2-3; Lk. 24:46-47** – Jerusalem, last days ☞ **Acts 2; Heb. 1:1-2**
 2. We must get back to the one true church!

IV. WORSHIP

- A. **Matt. 15:7-9** – vain worship
- B. **John 4:24** - must worship in Spirit and Truth
- C. **Acts 2:42** – those at Jerusalem - continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine
- D. Departures from the old path of worship
 1. Mechanical instruments when commanded to sing (**Eph. 5:19**; 9 other passages)
 2. Lords supper not on the first day (**Ac. 20:7**)
 3. Raising of funds contrary to NT (**1 Cor. 16:2**)
 4. Women leading worship (**1 Tim. 2:12-14**)
- E. We must get back to worshipping how God intended!

V. HOPE

- A. Called in one hope of our calling (**Eph. 4:4**)
- B. **Eph. 2:12-13** – once without hope
- C. **Titus 1:1-4** – hope of eternal life
- D. **Romans 5:1-8** -
- E. An anchor for the soul (**Heb. 6:18-20**)
- F. **Col. 1:4-6, 19-23** – hope in the gospel, some have been moved away from the hope

VI. PLAN OF SALVATION

A. Many have forsaken the old plan of salvation, we must get back to it to have the hope of eternal life. The 'new path' consist of saying a 'sinner's prayer', 'accepting Jesus as your personal savior'.

1. Hear the gospel (**Rom. 10:17**)
2. Believe the gospel (**Heb. 11:6; John 8:24**)
3. Repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3, 5**)
4. Confess our faith (**Acts 8:36-37; Matt. 10:32-33**)
5. Be Baptized for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16**)
6. Remain Faithful (walk in the Old Paths) (**Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58**)

- a. Come back through repentance and prayer (**Acts 8:20-24**)