

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Ask for the Old Paths

Remember when?

All night prayer meetings – at church and at home
Seeking the Lord for an outpouring of His Spirit
Fasting and praying for loved ones who were not saved
Worship services – true **worship** – getting lost in love with Jesus
The Word preached in such power and anointing of the Holy Spirit that
you listened gladly for two or three hours with an insatiable hunger –
truly feasting on the Lord Jesus
Neighbors believing in the same God – the one and only living God, the
Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Are you old enough to remember all of this? "... ask for the old paths,
where *[is]* the good way, and walk therein" (Jer 6.16).

To "walk therein" is to begin doing whatever is necessary in your own life
to experience the presence of the Lord on His paths – even if you are the only
one walking that path, even if others think you have "lost it."

The Israelites were God's people, but they were adulterous, a nation
whoring after other gods – just like our nation today. The leaders taught a
polluted, abominable "doctrine" – just like many church leaders today. The
people sought the pleasant way, whatever felt good and satisfied their own
selfish desires – just like many of "God's people" today. They had God's
prophets preaching the way of holiness, but they refused to listen; they
preferred to listen to false prophets and false pastors telling them to serve any
god they chose – just like so many "Christians" today.

The wide gate and broad way leading to destruction is not preached or
taught today in most churches, neither is the straight gate and narrow way
leading to life (Mt 7.13, 14). Many are going through the wide gate heading for
destruction while attending church and being told how good they are, hearing
what tickles the ears (II Tim 4.3-4). Those following the straight and narrow way
are becoming fewer and fewer as the "godly" leaders (false shepherds and
hirelings) and their followers are becoming adulterers, becoming one with
other gods.

And above all these things *[put on]* charity, which is the bond of
perfectness.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called
in one body; and be ye thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and
admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *[do]* all in the name of the Lord
Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.
Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The Israelites rebelled against God, had intermarried with the heathen nations around them, and were serving the gods of the heathen. God had pronounced judgment upon Judah, seventy years of bondage to Babylon. Their only hope of escaping was to listen to God's prophets, repent, and begin walking in God's way of righteousness:

Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *[is]* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. **BUT THEY SAID, WE WILL NOT WALK [THEREIN]** (Jer 6.16).

What were the old paths for the children of Israel? God gave them the Ten Commandments and laws of worship. They were to serve no other gods, and they were to walk in obedience to all of God's commandments. While they were walking in obedience to the Word of God, walking in the way of righteousness, they were covered and protected by the mighty power of God. Their paths included:

Eating manna, the bread sent from God

Drinking of life-giving water from the rock

Experiencing God's supernatural power in battle against their enemies

Walking in health

Having clothes and shoes that did not wear out

They walked "the old paths," the way of righteousness.

Saints, I fear that we – those of us who truly love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ – are living today in the midst of a nation and people who fit the picture of Israel in the time of Jeremiah and others of God's prophets. Our only hope of escaping judgment is to find "the old paths," the ways of the Lord, repent, and walk in the way of holiness.

I believe this country will not repent, but we as individuals, the body of Christ, must renounce any alliance with the gods of this world in our lives; we must stay on the straight and narrow way.

The "old paths" for us, as with the Israelites, are the ways of holiness, of righteousness; obedience to God's commands; serving only the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; trusting Jesus to the death – if necessary – as did the apostles and many others knowing that God is able to deliver us from the enemy, **but if not . . .**

The three Hebrew children walked the old paths in the midst of apostasy and while facing the fiery furnace (Dan 3.17-18). Daniel walked the old paths in

the den of lions (Dan 6). Jeremiah walked the old paths as he preached, "Thus saith the Lord" and went into the dungeon (Jer 38). Isaiah, Ezekiel, and

other prophets walked the old paths – alone, in the midst of a hardhearted, rebellious, evil people. Brothers and sisters, this time is upon us.

Look at the trials and persecutions of the apostles and early disciples of Christ. They walked the "old paths," nothing deterring them from serving Jesus. There are Peter and John threatened by the high priest (Acts 4), the apostles in prison (Acts 5.18), Peter imprisoned (Acts 12); and look at Paul's account of his suffering (II Cor 11.22-33). They walked the "old paths."

Yes, they suffered; and we are in the last days, a time in which we will have to stand for Jesus at all costs. But look at the mighty power of God working in and through His people to save, to heal, to raise the dead, to deliver from the clutches of Satan. Think of the joy, the peace, the strength, and the power of the Holy Spirit filling His people to take them through the enemy's territory and accomplish His will and purpose in the Kingdom of God. Our God is able!

As our Lord's return approaches, there will be times when we will need the strength of our brothers and sisters in Christ to stand strong in the face of persecution – the onslaught of satanic religions and laws which are already taking control of our country. No longer do we dare be concerned with our own selfish desires. Our prayer and support is vital to the rest of the Body if we are to overcome and be with Jesus eternally. A person whose life is submitted totally to Jesus and committed to Him will know His presence and supernatural strength in time of need.

If you don't know the old paths, "...ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls . . ." (Jer 6.16) Start your search by asking God to show you how to walk in His ways. Saturate yourself with His Word, the Holy Bible; spend time on your knees, literally, communing with Jesus and listening to Him speak to your heart. He will meet you, speak to you, feed you from His Word, and strengthen you. Find fellowship with others who are endeavoring to submit totally to the Lord Jesus Christ, and study the Bible and pray together; support each other with prayer and encouragement.

Always know that we as members of the body of Christ are one body and must function together, doing battle in the Spirit one for another. Notice Paul's instructions in Colossians 3.12-17.

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *[do]* ye.