

Ask For The Old Paths

By Jarrett Watson

Old Paths Baptist Outreach

A ministry of New Testament Church (Dover, TN)

Jeremiah 6:16 KJV

“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.”

A path is a way or course that is walked and trodden down. More figuratively, it is the course(s) you take in life. So, what do we mean by “the old paths?” This does not refer to what some might call “the good ol’ days” nor to a time when people were supposedly more righteous and holy. The truth is, man is completely wicked from a very young age and this has been true since nearly the beginning of history (see Genesis 8:21). Yes, the paths here are called old, and yes, they were old in that they had been around for some time. They are not referring to 1950’s America however, for these words were penned by the prophet Jeremiah some 2600 years ago. Rather, the old paths here refer to the tried and true ways of scripture/the Bible or the ways of God (which are indeed old, for God and His ways predate time itself).

I will be one of the first to admit that sin is accepted more and more in our society. However, this is not a result of man becoming more wicked. Rather it is the result of man following God and His ways less and less. The solution to this is found in our text: return to the old paths. The problem is, just like the Israelites of old, we refuse to walk therein. Many do not see anything wrong with the way they are living, and beyond that, many do not like God’s ways. These “old paths” are often seen as outdated and old-fashioned. Some will even say that they are bigoted and not “inclusive.”

We have a two-fold issue here. The first issue is that many of those who claim the name of Christian are not actually walking in the old paths either. They may say they are living according to the Bible but, in reality, they are living more like the Pharisees during the time of Christ: following the things which make them appear righteous while leaving out the more important matters (see Matthew 23:23). We cannot follow the “do’s and don’ts” and leave off love, nor can we be all love and not follow the commandments. For those of us that are Christians, we need to examine ourselves with the scriptures to see if we are really walking in the old paths or in a way that seems right to ourselves (Proverbs 14:12).

The second, and deeper, issue is one of utmost importance. It is the condition of one’s soul. A person will not (and I would argue cannot) follow God and His ways if that person has not been born again. The natural man is the enemy of God (Romans 8:5-9) and will stay that way until a work of grace has been wrought in the heart. In fact, Jeremiah 17:9 describes the heart as “deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.” But God says He is able to give a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). If you do not know Jesus Christ as your saviour, you are spiritually dead and in need of life (Ephesians 2:1). You can do all the “good works” you want, you can be “baptized,” you can even join a church or repeat a prayer, but if you have never believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as saviour then you are still lost and on your way to Hell. Come to Christ, He will not reject you (John 6:37). He is the only one that can give life and a new heart. “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).

If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone about salvation, contact:

Brother Jarrett Watson

931-449-9988

Facebook.com/OldPathsOutreach

OldPathsOutreach@gmail.com

New Testament Baptist Church

805 Natcor Dr. Dover, TN 37058

ntbcdover.com