"ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS"
Jeremiah 6:16
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INTRODUCTION
1. The plea of the prophet was for them to walk in the ways of God.
2. To do so, they were REQUIRED to "stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way".
3. Then, they would "walk therein".
4. Their pitiful answer was, "We will not walk therein."
5. The sad plight of Israel was sealed by their attitude toward the "Old Paths".
6. TODAY the plea of God's prophet of OLD needs to be heard.
7. We must "ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, WHERE IS THE GOOD WAY, AND WALK THEREIN".
8. Let us study the GOOD WAY of the Old Paths.

I. THE GOOD WAY IS A SPECIFIED WAY.
1. It is a REVEALED WAY:
   (1) "Thus saith the Lord" -- WAY.
   (2) It is not a way of our personal feelings.
   (3) Not a way of what our parents believed and practiced.
   (4) Not a way of the wisdom of men -- Jer. 10:23; Matt. 15:9; I Cor. 1:21.
   (5) It is the WAY of the New Testament -- 2 Tim. 3: 16 - 17; I Cor. 2: 9 - 13; I Pet. 4:11; 2 Pet. 1:3; John 8: 32.
2. It is a WAY OF FAITH:
   (1) "For we walk by faith, not by sight" --2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17.
   (2) Let us learn that the "Old Paths" is a way that involves implicit faith and trust in the Lord and His word -- Heb. 11:6.
   (3) We do not need to see why He required us to act as He does.
   (4) Our faith must obey as did Abraham's -- Heb. 11: 8.
   (5) God speaks and we believe.
   (6) Because we believe, we ACT, and we walk in the paths of God.
3. It is a WAY OF OBEDIENCE:
   (1) WE must walk in the "Old Paths".
   (2) Heb. 5:9; Matt. 7: 24 - 25; 7;21.
   (3) I Sam. 15:22.
   (4) Mk. 16: 15 - 16

II. THE WAY DESCRIBED:
1. It is the OLD WAY
   (1) It is older than one's father and mother.
   (2) It is older than any current trends.
   (3) It is older than the Reformation period.
   (4) It is older than Catholicism.
   (5) It goes back to Pentecost in Jerusalem, A.D. 33 -- Acts 2: 37 - 38, 47.
2. It is the GOOD WAY -- "Where is the good way?"
It is religiously good.

Every element of the Lord's way is by Divine authority -- Matt. 28:18.

Not one ACT or PRACTICE comes by the authority of men.

There is NOTHING that is religiously good except that which is AUTHORIZED -- I Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9 - 11.

The WAY of the Lord is MORALLY GOOD:

1. It produces good lives -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12.
2. It is good for the soul -- I Pet. 1:22
3. It is good for the body -- I Cor. 6: 18 - 20.
4. It will make one a good example -- I Tim. 4:12.
5. The good way will not allow sins of the flesh -- Eph. 5:3; Gal. 5: 19 - 21.

III. THE PROPHET'S PLEA:

1. He urges solemn consideration: "Stand in the ways, and see".
   (1) The devil would have you hurry on in the course you are pursuing.
   (2) The Lord demands our careful consideration -- I Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 13: 5.
      1. Haggai said to Judah -- "Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways" - Haggai 1:5.
      2. Isaiah 1:3.
   (3) All men need to give careful consideration to the way they are traveling.

2. He pleads for serious inquiry -- "Ask for the old paths".
   (1) Do not ask this of man, he cannot direct his own steps -- Jer. 10:23.
   (2) Ask it of the Lord in His inspired word.
   (3) Only in His word can the "Old Paths" be found -- 2 Tim. 3: 16 - 17.

3. He urges us to "walk therein".
   (1) When, by our careful consideration and earnest seeking, we have found the OLD PATHS, let us walk in them.
      1. Walk by faith -- 2 Cor. 5:7.
      2. Walk in all the commandments -- Lk. 1:6.

IV. THE PROMISE GIVEN

1. "Ye shall find rest unto your souls"...
   (1) There is sweet rest from all our guilt of sin -- Matt. 22: 28 - 30; Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16.
   (2) Not only are those sins forgiven, they are forgotten -- Heb. 8: 12.
   (3) We have rest from slavery of sin -- Rom. 6: 16 - 18.
   (4) Above all, the hope of eternal rest in heaven -- I Pet. 1: 4; John 14:1 - 3.

CONCLUSION

1. Let us hear the prophet's plea -- "Stand 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" -- Jer. 6:16.

2. Let us not be like Israel that said, "We will not walk therein".

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