

"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?*"

- (1) It is religiously good.
- (2) Every element of the Lord's way is by Divine authority -- Matt. 28:18.
- (3) Not one ACT or PRACTICE comes by the authority of men.
- (4) There is NOTHING that is religiously good except that which is AUTHORIZED -- I Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9 - 11.
- (5) 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.
 3. Walk in newness of life -- Rom. 6: 4.
 4. Walk in the light -- I John 1: 7.
 5. Walk in truth -- 2 John 4.
 6. Walk in the strait and narrow way -- Matt. 7:14.

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*".

