

**OLD PATHS WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE
JEREMIAH 2:13, 6:16-17, 7:23-24; 18:15-16**

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Introduction:

It had been a **long time** since God had called Israel to be His precious possession. It had been a **long time** since he had redeemed them as a nation with a mighty outstretched arm and had freed them from the cruel Egyptian bondage.

The verses we read here were delivered by the prophet Jeremiah as a warning to God's peculiar people.

They had sinned against God in that they forsook the one true God for idols! He urged them to repent from their evil ways and **return to and walk in the "old paths"** to find rest for their souls!

But, they rejected the message, so the judgment of God came upon them!

A lot has changed since this Church was first organized 27 years ago!

We live in a time when many of the old-time principles of God's Word **have been increasingly minimized** and, in fact, are being **forsaken** by many!

I believe God's message to us today is the same as it was in Jeremiah's day! For those who have wandered from the old paths, God says to ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein!

For those who are still walking in the old paths, God wants us to cling to them and not forsake them!

What are some of these old paths that we shouldn't forsake?

I. WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES!

A. We Don't Need Another Bible.

There has never been anything wrong with the one we have!
Some say the Bible is out of date!

Some say the Bible is too difficult!

But, the Bible is a supernatural Book! It takes the indwelling Spirit of God to understand it!

1 Corinthians 2:14—"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

We Shouldn't Forsake The Old Path Of The Holy Scripture because:

1. The Word Of God Is Still Inspired.

2 Timothy 3:16—"All scripture is given by inspiration of God. . ."

2. The Word Of God Is Still Inerrant.

Psalms 12:6-7—"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

3. The Word Of God Is Still Infallible.

Psalms 119:160—"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

4. The Word Of God Is Still Invariable.

(i.e. It is unchanging.)

Psalms 119:89—"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

5. The Word Of God Is Still Inevitable.

Matthew 24:35—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

6. The Word Of God Is Still Invaluable.

a. Because It Still Brings Conviction.

b. Because It Still Brings Conversion.

1 Peter 1:23—"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

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Romans 10:17—“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- The Word Of God Is Invaluable. . .**
- c. Because It Still Brings Correction.**
2 Timothy 3:16-17—“. . . is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”
- d. Because It Still Cleanses.**
Psalm 119:9—“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.”
- John 15:3—“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”*
- e. Because It Still Conquers.**
Ephesians 6:17—“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”
- f. Because It Still Comforts.**
1 Thessalonians 4:18—“Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

We Don't Need Another Bible!

B. We Don't Need Another Book!

We've got the book that God intended for us to have!

We don't need another “*Holy Book!*”

We don't need continuing revelation!

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C. We Don't Need Another Book About The Book!

1. Some commentaries can be good!
2. But commentaries cannot replace the Word of God!
 - a. Commentaries are an interpretation!
 - b. Commentaries are the Word of Man!
 - c. Commentaries are subject to error!
3. Nothing can replace getting into the Scriptures with the aid of the Holy Spirit!
Proverbs 3:5-6—“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

We Don't Need Another Bible...Another Book...Another Book About the Book!

D. We Just Need To Get In The Book We Have!

1. **We Need To Read The Word!**
(1 Timothy 4:13—“. . . give attention to reading. . .)
2. **We Need To Study The Word!** *(2 Timothy 2:15)*
3. **We Need To Delight In The Word!** *(Psalm 1:1)*
4. **We Need To Meditate On The Word!** *(Psalm 1:1)*
5. **We Need To Memorize The Word!** *(Psalm 119:11)*
6. **We Need To Listen To Or Receive The Word!**
James 1:21—“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”
7. **We Need To Obey the Word!**
James 1:22—“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

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8. We Need To Spread the Word!

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

II. WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH!

A. The Old Path Of Salvation Is The Only Way Of Salvation!

John 14:6—“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

1. True Salvation Is Only By The Blood!

Hebrews 9:12—“. . .by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”

Hebrews 9:22—“. . .without shedding of blood is no remission.”

1 Peter 1:18-19—“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, . . .But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

2. True Salvation Is Only Found In Christ!

Romans 3:24—“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”

Romans 8:11—“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

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1 Corinthians 15:22—“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Galatians 3:26—“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

3. True Salvation Is Only By Grace Through Faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

B. The Old Path Of Salvation Includes Repentance!

Luke 24:46-48—“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 11:3, 5—Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Acts 2:38, 3:19—Peter said “repent.”

- 1. Repentance Involves A Change Of Mind About Sin.**
- 2. Repentance Involves A Change Of Mind About Self.**
- 3. Repentance Involves A Change Of Mind About The Saviour.**

Acts 17:30 says that God “commandeth all men every where to repent:”

C. The Old Path Of Salvation Includes Faith!

Hebrews 11 is known as “The Hall of Faith Chapter.” It talks of Old Testament saints and what they did “by faith.”

Hebrews 11:2—“For by it the elders obtained a good report.”

Hebrews 11:13—“These all died in faith. . .”

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Hebrews 11:6—“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

D. The Old Path Of Salvation Is Non-Negotiable!

Proverbs 14:12—“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Proverbs 4:19—“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”

Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23

THE OLD PATH OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES...THE OLD PATH OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH...

III. WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF GODLINESS AND CHRISTLIKENESS! (i.e. SPIRIT WALK! Galatians 5:16)

Acts 11:26—“And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

*1 John 2:6—“He that saith he abideth in him **ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.**”*

Are you abiding in Christ? Are you walking like Christ walked?

1 John 4:17—“. . .as he is, so are we in this world.”

*Ephesians 5:1-2—“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And **walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.**”*

*Ephesians 5:8—“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk as children of light:**”*

1 Peter 1:13-15—“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of...”

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IV. WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF FAITHFULNESS!

Being faithful is being true! Being faithful is being dependable!

Being faithful is **being what you say you are**

Being faithful is **being where you are supposed to be**

Being faithful is **doing what you are supposed to do!**

Here are some of Noah Webster's definitions of “faithful.”

“Firm in adherence to the truth. Firmly adhering to duty; loyal.

Constant in the performance of duties or services; exact in attending to commands.”

*1 Corinthians 1:9—“**God is faithful**, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

*1 Corinthians 4:2—“Moreover it is required in stewards, **that a man be found faithful.**”*

*Luke 16:10-12—“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11 **If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?** 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?”*

Are you walking in the old path of faithfulness?

V. WE SHOULDN'T FORSAKE THE OLD PATH OF SERVING GOD.

James 2:26—“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Matthew 5:16—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Ephesians 2:10—“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should...”

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Conclusion

A lot of things have changed in 27 years! But listen, God has not changed!

His Son, Jesus Christ, is the same, yesterday, and today, and forever!

God's Word has not changed!

The paths that God would have us to walk in have not changed!

Every path takes you to a destination! Where are the paths that you are taking in taking you?