

**OLD PATHS WE STILL NEED
JEREMIAH 2:13, 6:16-17, 7:23-24; 18:15-16**

Introduction:

At the time this message was delivered, it had been a long time since **GOD** had called **ISRAEL** to be **HIS PRECIOUS POSSESSION!** It had been a long time since the **LORD** had redeemed them as a nation with **HIS 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!** The **LORD** had been good to **HIS PEOPLE...HE** had been longsuffering to **HIS PEOPLE** in despite their continued wandering away from **HIM.**

They had sinned against **GOD** in that they forsook the **LORD GOD** for idols! **The LORD, through the PROPHET** urged them to **repent from their evil to return to HIM and ask for and walk in the "old paths" to find rest for their souls.**

Nevertheless, they rejected the message and continued in their wayward ways, and as a result, the judgment of **GOD** finally did come upon them and they were carried away into captivity just as the **LORD** had told them!

A lot has changed since this **CHURCH** was first **organized 34 years ago!**
It is a different world! But GOD remains the same!

We are living in a time in which many of the **old-time principles** of **GOD'S WORD** (the "**old paths**") have been **minimized** and **forsaken** because they are thought to be **out of touch** with today's enlightened society and so they are no longer viewed as being valid for today.

I believe that **GOD'S** message for **US** today is **NOT** much different than it was to **JUDAH** 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.**

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What are some of these old paths that are still needed today?

I. WE NEED THE OLD PATHS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE!

A. We Don't Need Another BIBLE!
Part of the problem today is that people have changed their BIBLE to a BIBLE that has been changed!
(e.g. A Baptist Church in Crescent, GA)

Things that are different are not the same!

There has never been anything wrong with the **BIBLE** we have! Some say that this old **KJV BIBLE** that we cling to is **out of date** and that **we need to ditch it for one of the many updated perversions** that are out there on the market today!
NO THANK YOU!

Some say the **KJV BIBLE** is just too difficult to understand in our day and in order to understand it we need an **updated simplified version!** The problem is that every time man has gone to try to **update the language of the BIBLE, they wind up changing the doctrines of the BIBLE.**

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 Still Need The Old Paths Of The Holy Scripture:

- 1. Because The Word Of God Is Still INSPIRED!**
2 Timothy 3:16--"All scripture is given by inspiration of God. . ." God -Breathed! Cf. 2 Peter 1:21
- 2. Because 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."

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We Still Need The Old Paths Of The Holy Scripture:

3. **Because 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. **Because 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. **Because The Word Of God Is Still INEVITABLE!**
Matthew 24:35—“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

6. **Because 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.”

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

 - 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 CLEANSSES!**
John 15:3—“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

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The Word Of God Is Still Invaluable. . .

- 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!”**
- 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! Always remember:**
 - 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.”
- D. We Just Need To Get In The BOOK!**

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1. **Read The WORD!**
(1 Timothy 4:13–“ . . .give attention to reading. . .)
2. **Study The WORD!** *(2 Timothy 2:15)*
3. **Delight In The WORD!**
(Psalm 1:1-3–Blessed is the man... ”)
4. **Meditate On The WORD!** *(Psalm 1:1-3)*
5. **Memorize The WORD!** *(Psalm 119:11)*
6. **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. **Obey the WORD!**
James 1:22–“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
8. **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 NEED THE OLD PATHS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

II. WE NEED THE OLD PATHS 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.”

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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.”

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.”

The Old Path Of Salvation Includes Faith.

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:

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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.**

It is a change of mind that leads to a change in action!

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

*The Old Path Of Salvation Is The Only Way Of Salvation.
The Old Path Of Salvation Includes Repentance.*

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. . ."

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

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*WE NEED THE OLD PATHS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES....
THE OLD PATHS OF SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.*

III. WE NEED THE OLD PATH OF GODLINESS AND CHRISTLIKENESS!

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 conversation;"

IV. WE NEED THE OLD PATHS OF FAITHFULNESS!

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

Being faithful is being where you are supposed to be and doing what you are supposed to do!

Here are some of Noah Webster's definitions of the word "**faithful.**"
"Firm in adherence to the truth."

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“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 NEED THE OLD PATHS 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 walk in them.”

Conclusion

A lot of things have changed in 34 years! But **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!

Where are the paths that you are walking in taking you?