

“Ask for the Old Paths”

Introduction

Scripture Text:

Jeremiah 6:10-17

1. The Israelites had turned their backs on God once again. They left the old paths.
2. The prophet Jeremiah pleaded with them to return to the old paths, where the good way is.
3. Unfortunately people leave God and His law. We need to plea with people, as Jeremiah did hundreds of years ago, to return to the Old Paths, the Word of God.
4. Why should we seek to have people return to the scriptures? Because it is through the scriptures that we understand;

The Importance of the Word of God

1. It is our guide.

Ps 119:104-105 Through Your precepts **I get understanding**; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a **light to my path**.

2. It converts the soul.

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the **testimony of the LORD is sure**, making wise the simple;

3. It is God's power to save.

Rom 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...."

2 Tim 3:14-17 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, **which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith** which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is **given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4. It is right.

Ps 33:4-6 For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth. He **loves righteousness and justice**; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Rom 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." **(ROMANS 10:17)**

- A. **Understanding the importance of God's Holy inspired Word, we then need to;**

Plead with People to Return to the Bible

I have indicated 8 reasons why man should return to the Bible. Just as Jeremiah urged the Israelites to return to God, we must also urge people today to return to the Old Paths of God's Holy Bible because the Bible holds;

1. A true account of the origin of all things.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2. The Bible holds – The reasons for our preaching and teaching.

The great preacher Paul has stated:

Acts 20:18-21...."You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how **I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you**, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. "For **I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God**.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort**, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3. The Bible holds – Authority in religious matters.

Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "**teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**;"....

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, **that in all things** God may be glorified through Jesus Christ....

4. The Bible holds – Instructions concerning the salvation of our soul.

Rom 10:17; Heb 11:6; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21

5. The Bible holds – Instructions concerning the church.

A. Its importance.

Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He **purchased with His own blood.**

Eph 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

B. Its worship.

John 4:24

C. Its work. (1 Corinthians 12)

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, **for the edifying of the body of Christ**, (*Building up one another is an important facet of the church*)

6. The Bible holds – Instruction in righteousness.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, **for instruction in righteousness**,

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age**,

7. The Bible holds – Comfort in sorrow. (Luke 16:19ff - Rich Man and Lazarus)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

8. The Bible holds – Great and precious promises.

2 Pet 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you,**

Titus 1:2 **in hope of eternal life** which God, **who cannot lie**, promised before time began,

John 14:1-3

Conclusion

These “Old Paths” of God are most important!

1. Could it be that you are one that has left the Old Paths of truth?
2. If so, do as Jeremiah urged the Israelites to do many years ago, to come back to the word of God!
 - A. Don't say “I will not!” but rather say “I will!” (Learn from their mistakes)
3. Let us continue to holdfast to the pattern of sound words.

2 Tim 1:13 **Hold fast the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Invitation

Place		Date	

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Richard Thetford, 1998, Modified November 2007 (Based on a lesson by Randy Cavender)