

The Old Paths

Thus says the Lord:

By David Maxson

“Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.- **Jeremiah 6:16**

What does it mean to ask for the old paths?

The call for the old paths is a call for God's authority to reign over us. It is a surrender of our will, our likes and dislikes, to the desires and directions of our Master and Lord.

The call for the old paths is an acknowledgement that we've made a mess of things. We've polluted our lives with the filth of the nations. We wanted to be like everyone else, and we've suffered for it.

The call for the old paths is not the same as traditionalism. The Pharisees were traditionalists. They worshiped the new and the novel. Jesus told them to abandon all human tradition, and (like Jeremiah before him) called them to go back to the old paths.

The call for the old paths is a return to that which brings us peace. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. We've created this mess by following our own paths and our own ways. Returning to God's way brings order back to our lives.

Father, thank you for giving us the old paths in your Word. May we find that good way and never stray from it.



The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

Volume 7, Issue 48

August 14, 2016

Humble Enough to be Thankful

By Larry Rouse



Thoughts to Ponder

Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!" **(Psalms 107:8)**

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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The key to finding an abundant and meaningful life is in the grasp of every man. Jesus plainly promised, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" **(Jn 10:10)**. The first step in finding that kind of life is to recognize God and be thankful.

The Gentile world rejected the simplicity and power of God's plan for one that required a greater "knowledge," and a greater effort, only to find that it resulted in terrible pain and anguish. They looked at the obvious evidence for the existence of God and chose not to "glorify Him as God, nor were thankful." Their new "world view" caused them to become "futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened" **(Rom 1:20-21)**. Later, in their modern "guilt-free" lifestyle, they found their lives descending into misery as they "received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion" **(Rom 1:27 NIV)**.

The Gentile world was not alone in such a path. The Jews, even though they outwardly acknowledged God and even mouthed words of thankfulness, had failed to truly be thankful in their hearts. What was the result? "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness

Often through suffering we find the greatest blessing of thankfulness. In weakness and pain it is easy to see ourselves as we truly are, helpless creatures completely dependent upon God. We would do well to have this kind of humility in the midst of our abundance, but it is extraordinarily hard to do so.

of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God" **(Rom 2:4-5)**.

Why is Thankfulness Difficult?

In order to be thankful you must first get "out of yourself" and recognize the unseen God. Many angrily refuse to do that. Why? Because they rightly know that acknowledging God also means acknowledging His moral standard, and they simply refuse to do that. "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, be-

(Continued on page 2)

Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Virginia Box (Sarah Norman's grandmother)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)
Buddy Scalf (Ada's uncle)	Artina Hunt (Esther's friend's sister)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Bernice Martin (Will Harris' great-grandmother)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseth's Mother)

August Birthdays

- 2-Emma Miller
- 6-Allyson Houlton
- 8-Alli Luther
- 9-Elliot Weldon
- 9-Troy Swenson
- 10-David Hartsell
- 11-Walker Davis
- 12-Jon Coleman
- 13-Brendon Kirby
- 13-Ariel Ramsey
- 13-Amanda Bertoldi
- 15-Kalee Reid
- 16-Sharon Edwards
- 19-Brettlyn Currier
- 19-Taylor Lawrence
- 21-Matt Cavender
- 23-Jordan Flatt
- 23-Colton Miller
- 24-Sophie Hall
- 27-Chip Freeman
- 28-Larry Rouse
- 28-Cole Johnson
- 28-Alex Dobbins

News and Notes

- ☒ - Ryan Hasty and Ben Holcomb will be report tonight about their trip to S. Korea!
- ☒ - We welcome our new and returning students! Please be sure to be aware of several upcoming events for our students.
- ☒ - Be sure to have your picture taken (or updated) for the directory in the foyer on Sunday mornings.
- ☒ - The meal list for Steve Klein is on the bulletin board.
- ☒ - Please remember the family of Brooke Perkins in your prayers in the loss of her grandmother, Bette Jennings.
- ☒ - Kelli Huggins' mother, Mary, was uninjured, but involved in a terrible car accident on Monday. Please remember this family in your prayers.
- ☒ - Those who come early for services are urged to park on the grass when possible.
- ☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson, Craig and Paula Davis
- ☒ - Let us be preparing for our upcoming meeting with Steve Klein, August 21-25!
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

cause their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (Jn 3:19-21).

For the same reason it is difficult for the "religious" man as well. Hypocrisy results when one refuses God's moral standard while, at the same time, seeks a religious reputation so he can have the praise of men. This unthankful man must live in a world where he hides from his sin but pretends to be happy. In every case of dishonesty, both with the religious man and with the worldly man, the end result is a darkened and hardened heart. There is no joy in this kind of life.

Consider the Powerful Blessings Thankfulness Unlocks

There is a great comfort and joy in acknowledging God's unmerited and personal gifts in each of our lives. Every man can come to see the God who gives to all men and wishes to be known by His giving. When one yields his life to God in thanksgiving, he will have an abundance that can never be taken away. "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Lk 12:32-34)

When we are thankful we become aware of the presence of God. We can look back and see how He has worked in our lives. We can look up and know His daily care for us and we can be confident that He sees and knows every event in our lives (Mt 6:25-26).

Rest assured that this is not a mindless thankfulness based upon pretence and wishful thinking, but it is firmly based upon the God revealed through His written word. We can do as Jesus did when hung upon the cross and look back with assurance knowing that our God is "Enthroned in the praises of Israel" (Ps 22:3). Throughout history and throughout the Bible, we know that our God always answered prayers and provided for His people. Therefore I know that He never will forsake us! This thankfulness will turn into a strong confidence that the Bible calls hope. The Hebrew

writer proclaims "...it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.." (Heb 6:18-19)

Thankfulness in Suffering

Often through suffering we find the greatest blessing of thankfulness. In weakness and pain it is easy to see ourselves as we truly are, helpless creatures completely dependent upon God. We would do well to have this kind of humility in the midst of our abundance, but it is extraordinarily hard to do so. Paul's thorn in the flesh was given as a gift of God lest he be "exalted above measure". Paul went on to explain "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor 12:8-10).

Helen Keller, a woman born blind and deaf in a time where little hope was given to such a person, could look back on her life and acknowledge God. She said: "I thank God for my handicaps; for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God." Also she proclaimed: "For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that he has vouchsafed me knowledge of his works; deep thanks that he has set in my darkness the lamp of faith; deep, deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song. "

In Order to go Forward, We Must Look Back

As you take time to make plans in your life, be sure to first look back and acknowledge God's work in your life. From your New Years resolutions to your ordinary daily plans, acknowledge God. "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. The Lord preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever" (Psa 145:17-21).

What has the God of heaven done for you?
Give thanksgiving to Him!



Insights

By Irvin Himmel

Deconsecration

In 1839 a brick meeting house was erected in Mooresville, Alabama, in southern Limestone County. In the course of its long history it was used by the Cumberland Presbyterians, the Baptists, and the Methodists.

Several months ago the old brick church building was sold for use as a community building. A newspaper story reported that the Methodists had a service to "deconsecrate" the building.

To "consecrate" is to set apart, make holy, or dedicate to the service of God. That word appears a number of times in the Bible. To "deconsecrate" means the opposite. That word is not used in Scripture.

I do not know how the Methodists went about "deconsecrating" a building which had been sitting idle for many years. They seem to have a ritual that fits whatever the occasion may invite.

This much I do know. Many who have obeyed the gospel of Christ have "deconsecrated" themselves. By their actions they have made themselves unholy. Since being baptized into Christ, they have returned to the world. They have removed the sacred character of the calling which they formerly heeded. Some of these remind one of the dog that returned to its vomit. Others have departed from the truth and chased after religious error. It takes no special ceremony to "deconsecrate" one's

This much I do know. Many who have obeyed the gospel of Christ have "deconsecrated" themselves. By their actions they have made themselves unholy. Since being baptized into Christ, they have returned to the world.

life. And a life has far more value than a material building.

It Might Have Been

Young people, choose your companion for life with prayerful thought and wisdom. Do not be guided only by outward appearance or emotions. If you marry the wrong kind of person, there will be deep

regrets and far-reaching consequences. Many years from now you will look back and think what might have been.

Parents, do your very best to bring up your sons and daughters to fear and obey God. Teach them by your godly example. If you do not, they will disappoint you, and you will be haunted by what might have been.

Sinner, stop lingering and obey the gospel. Surrender your stubborn will to the Lord. Time is slipping by rapidly. Do not wait too long and then with bitter pain remember what might have been.

Christian, be faithful, diligent, and zealous. Grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. Do not allow pressures and problems, disappointments and discouragements to deter you. Never grow weary in well doing. You become unfaithful, you will forfeit your right to the tree of life.

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are these: It might have been!"

