

## **THE OLD PATHS** **Jeremiah 6:16-19**

### **Introduction:**

- 1. Jeremiah was the last prophet God sent to Judah before they were taken into the Babylonian Captivity.**
- 2. He pictures a traveller standing at an intersection.**
  - a. Many roads lead in all directions.**
  - b. The traveller chooses the well worn way for he knows it is safe.**
  - c. It is the ONLY way that will lead him home.**
- 3. Jeremiah called the Jews to return to the old paths of God's way.**
  - a. Only God can safely guide us (Pr. 14:12; Je. 10:23).**
  - b. There is a mass profusion of religious roads today.**
  - c. We must return to the old paths of God's way if we want to go home to Heaven.**
- 4. The Restoration Plea is for a return to the old paths.**
  - a. It is a plea to restore, not reform, the church.**
  - b. It calls for a return to original Christianity before the doctrines and traditions of men were added.**
- 5. Slogans of the Restoration Movement call men back to the old paths.**

### **Discussion:**

- I. "LET US GO BACK TO THE BIBLE FOR IT ALL."**
  - A. Creeds, traditions, opinions and human experiences cannot save (Mt. 15:8,9,13).**
  - B. The Bible is an all sufficient guide (2 Ti. 3:16, 17).**
    - 1. We will be judged by it at the Last Day (Jn. 12:48).**
    - 2. We need a "thus saith the Lord" all we practice (Is. 8:20; Lu. 10:26).**
- II. "LET US SPEAK WHERE THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK AND BE SILENT WHERE THE SCRIPTURES ARE SILENT."**
  - A. Israel was warned not to add to, or take from, God's law (De. 4:2; Pr. 30:6).**
  - B. Christians are also warned not to add to, or take from, God's will (Gal. 1:8; 2 Jn. 9; Re. 22:18,19).**
  - C. Let us apply this principle:**
    - 1. The New Testament commands singing, but is silent on**

- instrumental music in worship (Co. 3:16, 17).
- 2. The New Testament teaches the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week; it is silent on any other day (Ac. 20:7).
- 3. The New Testament teaches giving as prospered on the first day of the week; it is silent on man-made money raising schemes such as raffles, races, bake sales, etc. (1 Co. 16:2).

### III. "LET US DO BIBLE THINGS IN BIBLE WAYS."

- A. The Bible commands baptism for the remission of sins (Mk. 16:16; Ac. 2:38).
  - 1. Sprinkling and pouring are widely practiced.
  - 2. The Bible way is a burial in water (Ro. 6:3-5; Co. 2:12).
- B. The Bible gives a pattern for the organization of the church.
  - 1. The denominational world has human heads and lawmaking bodies.
  - 2. The Bible way is very simple:
    - a. Christ is the Head of the church (Co. 1:18).
    - b. The New Testament is the law (He. 7:12; 2 Ti. 3:16, 17).
    - c. Qualified elders are in every church (Ac. 14:23; Ph. 1:1:1; 1 Ti. 3:1-7; Ti. 1:5-9).
    - d. Deacons are servants under the elders (Ph. 1:1; 1 Ti. 3:8-13).
    - e. Evangelists are preachers of the Gospel ( 2 Ti. 4:1-5)

### IV. "LET US CALL SCRIPTURAL THINGS BY SCRIPTURAL NAMES."

- A. This is a Scriptural principle (1 Pe. 4:11; 2 Ti. 1:13).
- B. Much of the religious world speaks "the language of Ashdod." (Ne. 13:23,24).
  - 1. Calling preachers "Reverend," "Father," or "Pastor" (Mt. 23:8-11).
  - 2. Wearing human names instead of honoring Christ (Ac. 11:26; Ro. 16:16).

### Conclusion:

- 1. Much of the religious world has wandered from the old paths.
- 2. We must return to the old paths of God's revealed will if we want to go to Heaven.
- 3. We must obey the Gospel as they did in New Testament times (Ac. 2:36-47; 8:26-39).

