

Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths... and walk therein."

(Jeremiah 6:16)

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A Multitude of Questions Answered

Garland M. Robinson

[NOTE: We continually receive letters from all around the country and world regarding **Seek The Old Paths**. All correspondence received is printed in the **MailBag** on page 8 whether it be pro or con. As you follow that column from month to month you notice that it is a rare occasion when we receive a "negative" response. Most of the time it is a simple "please remove me from your mailing list." One such letter received from Norman, Oklahoma, however, was considerably more. This letter contained nearly three pages of single spaced text expressing concern over the type material printed in **Seek The Old Paths**. This letter asked a number of questions and made a number of statements that need to be examined from the scriptures. The following "answer" was mailed in response to this letter from Oklahoma.]

Dear brother _____

I was truly saddened to receive your letter dated January 9, 1994. I have given copies of it to the elders as I do all correspondence regarding the church and its work (such as **Seek The Old Paths**). The work which I do is under their oversight. They are wise and capable men who love the Lord, his Truth and his

church.

I thank you for writing and expressing your sentiments regarding **Seek The Old Paths**. I suppose many who feel as you do would not take the time or energy. Your letter was read and understood in a very cordial and caring way. I pray that you also will accept and read this letter in the same way. It indeed is written from a heart of humility and compassion and with much fear and trembling. It is written in the spirit of Galatians 6:1, "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*" So, please read and consider what I have to say in this letter. I realize it is rather long and I do not want to overwhelm you by its length, nonetheless, I will seek to give a biblical response to your comments and answer your questions as briefly as I can.

You mention you have seen and felt God's power work in the lives of people who are not members of the church of Christ.

I cannot answer to what you may have "seen" or "felt" but I do know that God's Truth is not based upon "seeing" and "feeling."

By inspiration, Paul wrote to brethren throughout Galatia, "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach **any other gospel** unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach **any other gospel** unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed*" (Gal. 1:8-9). This scripture points out the fact that Truth is Truth and anything contrary to it did not come from God. If I (or anyone for that matter) see, sense or feel something and it does not match what the Bible teaches then I must reject my personal observation and stand by what the Bible teaches. In this regard, God's Word, "the faith" once delivered (Jude 3), is stronger than sight. My sight or feeling is not the authority, God's Word is. In other words, "seeing is not believing" in spiritual matters. Faith does not come by "feeling and seeing" but by "*hearing*" God's Word (Rom. 10:17). We "*walk by faith, not by sight*" (II Cor. 5:7).

Someone may relate a particular experience they had and draw certain conclusions from it. However, if it contradicts God's Word, we must place our faith on His Word, not our experience. If the Bible teaches anything it

teaches this is so.

You say you do not believe those in the Lord's church have salvation all to themselves but that others who call on His name share in his blessings.

The Lord made plain that men are saved by his Truth. "*Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth...*" (I Peter 1:22). (I know Peter wrote these words but they are the "Lord's words" because Peter wrote by inspiration.) Jesus said we can know the Truth. "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). Therefore, I, and anyone else, can know when salvation comes by knowing when God's terms for salvation have been met.

When the Lord says: "*...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*" (John 8:24), I know when men have complied with these words or not. When he says "*...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*" (Luke 13:3), I know if men have done that or not. When he says, "*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven*" (Matt. 10:32), I know if men have done that or not. When he says "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*" (Mark 16:16), I know if men have done that or not. If these conditions of salvation have been met, then one is saved, but when any one of them has been left off, then one is not saved, no matter how much I think I see good things in their life. Which condition of salvation do you believe can be left off and men still be saved?

Denominationalism does not teach nor practice what the Lord said in order to be saved (they leave off baptism for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38), therefore, those in such bodies cannot be saved. Can any man presume to sit in the place of God and brush aside these commandments?

Those who are Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, et. al., have not met these conditions of salvation. How then can I as a mere man say, ok, I believe good people in all denominations will be saved regardless of what Jesus said. As much as I would like to, I cannot, nor can you, and be true to the Lord!

You say that if you are wrong you will gladly stand at the gates of Hell with your family and friends.

I pray you surely do not mean this. Your soul is much more precious than even life itself! You may maintain fellowship with family and friends in this life, but your soul's salvation is more important. Jesus said, "*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul*" (Matt. 16:26)?

The rich man did not desire that his family come to the place of punishment where he was. He said, "*...I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him (Lazarus) to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment*" (Luke 16:27-28). Please do not say you will gladly go to hell with your family and friends if you cannot all go to heaven together. As much as we desire our family to go to heaven with us, many times they will not obey.

Jesus said He was more important than our family. When it comes to a choice between truth and error, right and wrong, family or Jesus, the choice is clear. We must leave family behind when they do not desire to obey the "whole counsel of God." When we choose family over the Lord, we will both be lost and cast into hell. This is made clear in Matthew 10:34-39 when Jesus said; "*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For*

I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

When one maintains peace and harmony in his family, whether it be a husband or wife, son or daughter, father or mother, or brother or sister, regardless of what Jesus said, then it's a sad situation indeed. The Lord says you have lost your life (soul) (Matt. 10:39). It grieves us deeply that family and friends do not love the Truth and are not willing to obey the Truth. However, I love the Lord more and am unwilling to forfeit my soul and lose it in hell eternally for sake of a few short years of "peace" on this earth. Whatever sorrow there may be over the loss of dear ones, in heaven, God shall wipe away all tears from our "*...eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*" (Rev. 21:4).

For one to love and obey the Truth does not "slam the door of Heaven" to those who do not love and obey. We simply do what God has commanded all men to do. "*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent*" (Acts 17:30). The fact that many do not obey is not my fault. I did not make the door to heaven nor did I choose its size. Jesus describes it in Matthew 7:13-14, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be*

which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." I simply recognize God's requirements for entrance into it.

To say everyone who means well and says, "Lord, Lord" is my "brother in the Lord" and we will go to heaven together is making the gate much wider than God says it is. I, you, nor anyone has the right to do that. Remember where Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:21-23).

You say you refuse to stand in judgment of those who worship differently or have a different idea of church organization or simply call their assembly a different name.

God's people do not make God's laws. They do not take it upon themselves to decide who is right and who is wrong. God has the sole prerogative in that area and has spoken in his Word regarding it. God's people simply recognize and honor what God says about it.

WHEN we worship is not determined by each individual or group. God is the one who designated worship to be on the first day of the week as the church in Troas respected. "And upon the **first day of the week**, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..." (Acts 20:7). The church at Corinth was to "give of their means" on the first day of the week. "Upon the **first day of the week** let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath pros-

pered him..." (I Cor. 16:2).

HOW we worship is not left at our option either. Jesus said acceptable worship must be "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Worship in "spirit" is worship from the heart. It is sincere and honest. It proceeds from one's intellect and very soul. Worship in "truth" is directed by God's Word. God's Word is Truth (John 17:17). It is easily seen that one can worship from the heart with the proper intentions but the "acts" in which he engages as worship may or may not be according to the Truth - God's Word. Also, it is possible that one can worship, performing the "authorized acts" to be done in worship, but it not be from his heart and soul. In either case, such a person's worship is not acceptable with God. Those in denominations may have the right intentions but many of their "acts" of worship are not authorized from the scriptures; therefore, their worship is not according to Truth. Also, just because one may be present in a worship assembly of the Lord's church and go through the acts of worship does not necessarily mean they are worshipping acceptably. It may be that their mind and heart is not in it. Wrong acts performed in worship even reveals the true nature of one's heart not being right before God. To prove this point, Jesus quoted from Isaiah saying, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But **in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**" (Matt. 15:8-9).

People cannot worship God differently from what God has directed that he be worshipped and remain in fellowship with God; nor, can they expect to have or remain in the fellowship of God's saints. When men "add to" or "take from" God ordained worship, the faithful (those who

respect God's Word) cannot bid them godspeed and remain in fellowship with God (II John 9-11).

God is the one who **ORGANIZED the church**. Men do not have the right to change God's organization. God saw fit to place the oversight of each local congregation under elders (pastors, bishops, overseers, shepherds). To the elders of the church in Ephesus, Paul said, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood**" (Acts 20:28). We read of both "bishops and deacons" in the church at Philippi. "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops and deacons**" (Phil. 1:1). While "bishops" have the oversight, "deacons" are servants. We also read of evangelists who preach the Word (II Tim. 4:2,5). When denominational bodies do not have elders and deacons as we read of churches in the New Testament having, they do not have the organization the Lord has directed.

The **NAME** the Lord's people wear or by which they are known is not an option God allows us to exercise. Names are important. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Phil. 2:10). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Romans 16:16 reveals that the church was referred to everywhere as the "church of Christ" for it is mentioned in the plural. The designation "church of God" is authorized in I Cor. 1:2. There are other designations as well that are authorized in God's Word: the temple of God (I Cor. 3:16), the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:21-32), the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col. 1:13),

the house of God (I Tim. 3:15), the church (Eph. 3:10), the church of the firstborn (Heb. 12:23). Why would anyone desire to call the church anything other than what God called it unless it be to honor and exalt men, for that is what denominational names do. Do you want to stand before the judgment bar of Christ and claiming entrance into heaven wearing a man-made name such as: Methodist, Holiness, Baptist, Presbyterian, Mormon, Adventist, Episcopal, Full Gospel, Lutheran, Pentecostal, Catholic, Jehovah's Witness, etc.? Such names are strange indeed to the Lord!

You claim that many of the things we see as error are simply differences of tradition and are so unimportant as to be laughable. Keeping the traditions of man-made rituals and laws as a part of worship are condemned. Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees they transgressed the commandment of God and made it of none effect by their tradition (Matt. 15:3,6,8,9). Peter said we are not saved by tradition handed down from our fathers (I Peter 1:18). But on the other hand, not all tradition is wrong. To keep the tradition of the apostles is certainly right. The brethren at Thessalonica were told to withdraw themselves from those who did not keep the apostles' tradition. *"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us"* (II Thess. 3:6).

We must examine the things we do to see if they are traditions of men or of God. If they are of men that conflicts with God's Way, we must leave them alone. However, if it is a tradition of God, we must hold to it and follow it persistently. It is a tradition of God when it is authorized by God's Word. *"And whatsoever*

ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). No one should dare say that God's traditions are "laughable" nor that it is "laughable" that God's faithful servants keep His traditions.

You say those who believe they have the "one true answer" are destroying both churches and families all over America.

There is only "one true answer." Jesus said, *"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"* (John 14:6). There is only: ONE Savior (Acts 5:31; Jude 1:25), ONE mediator (I Tim. 2:5), ONE way (John 14:6; cf. Acts 16:17; II Peter 2:2,15,21), ONE BODY which is the CHURCH (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23; I Cor. 12:20). God has not given men the right to make the "one body" include more than God says it does. Only the saved are added to it by the Lord (Acts 2:47). Those on Pentecost "repented" and were "baptized" (Acts 2:38-41). Denominations do not baptize like God said. Methodists, and those like them, rarely baptize (immerse) at all, they sprinkle or pour. There's no baptism in sprinkling or pouring! Bible baptism is an immersion (Acts 8:36-39).

When you say we are destroying families, let me refer you again to Matthew 10:34-39 (quoted on page 2) and the parallel to it in Luke 14:26-33. In Luke, the Lord teaches us to "count the cost" of following him. It may very well cost us the fellowship of our earthly family. If that be the price, then so be it! Truth and salvation are more important than family.

The way of the Lord is narrow and few there be that travel it (Matt. 7:13-14). The Lord's way causes people to be separated one from another because some are not content to follow it. The Lord

just describes it the way it is.

Regarding the scriptures we list as our "purpose and goal in publication" of Seek The Old Paths, you ask a number of questions. Let me cover each one of these with you.

You quote each passage from the **New International Version** (NIV). I hope you are aware that the NIV is a very corrupt and perverted "Bible." Though there are many passages that are reliably translated, there are a host of others that are not. Allow me to list a few. It says to "make music" in Eph. 5:19 instead of "making melody" as in the reliable King James Version (KJV). In Psalm 51:5 it refers to David as a "sinner from birth" which teaches original sin. It says the Lord did not come to "abolish the law" in Matt. 5:17 when Eph. 2:15 says that he did. It changes "fornication" (a very specific word) in Matt. 5:32 and 19:9 to "marital unfaithfulness" (a very broad term), which allows for much more than fornication. Such examples could be multiplied over and over. It is full of poison and ought to be avoided, for who will know, without much study, what is right and what is not while studying the NIV?

Let me turn to your questions and comments about the following passages.

Jude 1:3 - "Isn't Jude warning the Church against the early Gnostics? Do you think those in the denominations are Gnostics? Do you think they are 'godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord?'"

Jude 3 reads, *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once deliv-*

ered unto the saints.”

I have found no indication that the book of Jude was written to warn his readers concerning the Gnostics. However, it is immaterial whether Jude wrote about them or not. The point of verse three remains the same. It's truth is certain and for all generations. Regarding error, from whatever source, whether the Gnostics or otherwise, Jude's readers were exhorted to “earnestly contend for the faith.”

Though Jude had intended to write concerning the “common salvation,” another purpose had become more pressing, that of making known the grave errors of those who would destroy the faith. Heaven's exhortation regarding sin and error is to “earnestly contend for the faith.” This exhortation is true regardless of the error or its source. Its admonition is timeless because obedience to Truth is all that will set men free from sin (John 8:32; I Peter 1:22). When the Truth has been perverted and error taught, God's people are to obey Jude's command. The word “contend” means to struggle or wrestle for, to contend as a combatant. On page 385 of the Gospel Advocate Commentary on Peter, John and Jude, Guy N. Woods said, “it denotes the extreme efforts which are to characterize the faithful in their defense of the truth, however formidable and numerous its enemies may be.”

It is always appropriate and right to use the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” (Eph. 6:17), to put down error. It cannot be allowed to pass (cf. II Tim. 3:9). Paul's life was spent in combating error every place he went. He certainly contended for the one truth faith – the gospel – the church (Phil. 1:7,17; cf. Rom. 1:15-16; I Cor. 9:16; Gal. 2:14).

II Tim. 4:2 – “Isn't this a personal letter from Paul to Timothy? Isn't Paul giving this charge to Timothy? Do you

presume to have the knowledge and wisdom to carry out this charge, which was given to Timothy by his great teacher and mentor the Apostle Paul?”

II Timothy 4:2 reads, “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*”

First and second Timothy are both addressed to Timothy from Paul and written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. They are letters of exhortation regarding, not only Timothy, but all Gospel preachers (and even all Christians). If these letters are to be excluded from our learning and admonition, then by what reasoning would any New Testament books be applicable today? If a book contains something we don't like, can we just dismiss it and say it is not for us? If we can do one book this way, we can do all books this way! The end result of this “strange doctrine” is that men today do not have any Word from the Lord. That is non-sense!

It is from Paul's letter to Timothy that we learn (just two verses before 4:2) that “*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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (II Tim. 3:16-17).

Without Heaven's instructions in Timothy and Titus, we would not know the qualifications of elders who oversee the flock (I Tim. 3; Titus 1). If these are just Paul's personal instructions to Timothy, then how can we have elders today?

II Tim. 4:2 is giving instruction for every Gospel preacher today. Every sermon preached ideally includes *reproving, rebuking and exhorting*.

Reprove means to convict, convince, refute, expose, to lay bare. Thayer says (pp.202-203), “*to find fault with, to show one*

his fault, to reprehend severely, chide, admonish” (warn). Every error and false way is exposed for all to see its true nature. Individuals who are guilty are made to see their condition before God and are convicted of their evil. Such conviction should move them to make the necessary correction.

Rebuke means to “*to tax with fault, rate, chide, rebuke, reprove, censure severely, to admonish or charge sharply*” (Thayer, p.245). Not only is sin exposed for what it is (the word “reprove”) but also those who are involved in it are made to feel guilty and brought to shame as a result of their guilt (the word “rebuke”). Such guilt and conviction would move them to repent and obey God. **Exhort** means to call to a person, entreat, to urge one to pursue the proper course of conduct. It looks to the future in exhorting one to change and do what is right. Therefore, we exhort people to repent of their sins and obey God.

Therefore, sermons today must include: **reproving**, “laying sin bare and exposing it” for all to truly see what it is, **rebuking** those who are guilty of sin to bring about remorse and guilt in their heart and **exhorting** the guilty to repent and come out of their sin. If these instructions are not appropriate and to be followed today, then nothing in the whole Bible is to be followed today. To take away this passage takes away the heart and soul of the gospel message. Without this kind of preaching, we allow people to continue in their sin and eventually go to hell with a smile on their face! The soft-soaping, compromising preaching heard today in many places, if it were not so serious, would be a laughing matter – laughed at by the devil and his cohorts! What glee they must feel when II Tim. 4:2 is not obeyed by every Gospel preacher.

Titus 1:13 – “Isn't this a per-

sonal letter from Paul to Titus? Isn't Paul giving these instructions to Titus, warning him about a specific group of Cretans who are 'always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.' Do you think those of us whom you label as 'liberals' conform to that description?"

Titus 1:13 reads, "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith."

I refer you to the comments made above regarding II Tim. 4:2 and this being simply a personal letter from Paul to Titus. They also apply to this verse.

The Cretians are mentioned in verse 12 and God's specific instruction regarding them is given in verse 13. Are we to assume that since these instructions were regarding some in error in Paul's day that the same instructions and principles no longer apply in our day? Such is sure strange reasoning. Are we to conclude that we must not rebuke those in error today because this was a personal letter to Titus written over 1900 years ago? Let us be reminded again that "All scripture...is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (II Tim. 3:16-17). Titus 1:13 is a part of scripture and the principles of it apply today just as it did then.

Are all liberals (those who do not respect Bible authority and go beyond the scriptures) "liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons?" God speaks of those who do not adhere to his Word as those who "serve...their own belly" and are to be "marked" and "avoided." "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Rom. 16:17-18). Those who teach "con-

trary to the doctrine" are church splitters and causers of division. This is so whether they intend to cause division or not. Their contrary doctrine causes the division.

Jesus calls false teachers "ravening wolves" in Matt. 7:15. "Woe" is pronounced upon them (Matt. 18:7). Concerning those who cause "offences" Jesus said, "it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea" (Matt. 9:42). Those who teach contrary to the doctrine are referred to as "dogs" and "evil workers" in Philippians 3:2. First Timothy 6:3-5 speaks of those who do not hold to the words of the Lord: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." Titus 1:10 and 3:13 says they are "unruly and vain talkers and deceivers..." and a "heretick."

These are all stern words regarding those who teach contrary to the doctrine of the Lord, but they are true words because they are the Lord's words.

II Peter 1:12 - "Isn't Peter reminding us to develop the personal qualities listed in 1:5-7? Does this give you the right to 'reprove, rebuke and exhort'?"

II Peter 1:12 reads, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

This verse is used as authority to continually proclaim the whole counsel of God. People are to always be reminded of God's

Word. The qualities of chapter 1:5-7 are certainly included in this statement but it also, in principle, includes all of God's Word. Every child of God must always remind others of God's Word. This is how we teach and exhort one another to live a faithful Christian life.

You tell us to be "forgiving"

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and "merciful." You also seek to convince us that the Bible commands us not to "judge." Surely you are aware there are two types of "judging" mentioned in the Bible: hypocritical and righteous. Matthew 7:1-5 forbids the hypocritical judging of one's motives. No human can presume to judge a person's heart. We must not look critically upon another when we are not willing to see our own faults. However, just 15 verses later in this same chapter Jesus reveals how we can make a proper and right judgment. *"Ye shall know them by their fruits"* (Matt. 7:16,20). One's heart, intention or motive we cannot judge; but we are able to see their works or way of life and make a proper judgment! The Lord's example of verses 17-19 prove this is so. As a matter of fact, we are commanded to judge righteously in John 7:24.

Even you believe in judging others. Would not you judge that one is in error when he denies that Jesus is the Son of God? Of course you would. Why not then recognize other points of scripture that demand we "judge?" We make a proper judgment when the Lord said *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."* (Mark 16:16) when we observe those who have not obeyed this command are not God's people. The same is true with every other scripture. No one could be a Christian without making these proper judgments. As a matter of fact, you are judging us by claiming we are being judgmental. Our point is this, proper judgments must be made according to God's Word. They are demanded from the scriptures, not condemned.

We have taken you off the mailing list to receive **Seek The Old Paths** as you requested. Let me say again, please accept this lengthy letter with the kindest spirit with which it was written.

For the Lord's Cause;

Garland M. Robinson

Ninth Annual
"SEEK THE OLD PATHS" LECTURESHIP
 July 24 - 28, 1994 • Theme: "IMMORALITY"

SUNDAY, JULY 24

- 9:45 A Biblical Overview of Immorality.....Ronnie Turner
- 10:35 Idolatry, Materialism, Selfishness.....Jimmy Bates
- 7:00 Evil CompanionsWade Webster
- 8:00 Situation Ethics.....Ed Casteel

MONDAY, JULY 25

- 9:00 WitchcraftRichard Carlson
- 10:00 Bribery.....Douglas Hoff
- 10:00 (Ladies Class) Love Your Husband and Children (Titus 2:4).....Dana Hale
- 11:00 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco.....Joe Nichols
- 1:30 Hatred, Jealousy, Strife, Envy, "Works of the Flesh"Randy Kea
- 2:30 Lying, Deceit, DishonestyJerry Joseph
- 3:30 Digression - Update '94Wayne Coats
- 7:00 Nakedness.....Gilbert Gough
- 8:00 Living Soberly, Righteously and Godly
in the Midst of Immorality.....Charles Blair

TUESDAY, JULY 26

- 9:00 Gambling.....Tom Larkin
- 10:00 EvolutionTerry Joe Kee
- 10:00 (Ladies Class) The Virtuous Woman (Prov. 31)Peggy Leonard
- 11:00 Elders Providing Moral Leadership
Through Overseeing the FlockEddy Craft
- 1:30 Preachers Providing Moral Leadership
Through Preaching and Teaching.....Wayne Cox
- 2:30 Lasciviousness, Dancing.....Virgil Hale
- 3:30 Digression - Update '94Wayne Coats
- 7:00 There is an Absolute Standard of Morality.....Charles Pledge
- 8:00 Fornication, Petting, ParkingTerry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

- 9:00 Parents Providing Moral Leadership and TrainingVirgil Hale
- 10:00 Capital PunishmentDan Sikes
- 10:00 (Ladies Class) For Such A Time As This.....Sherran Upchurch
- 11:00 AdulteryEddy Craft
- 1:30 Murder, Abortion, Euthanasia.....Mark Bass
- 2:30 Sodomy/Homosexuality: Such Were Some of You.....Windell Fikes
- 3:30 Digression - Update '94Wayne Coats
- 7:00 Repent or PerishKen Burleson
- 8:00 Church Discipline of the Immoral.....Charles Leonard

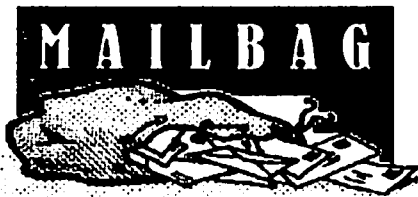
THURSDAY, JULY 28

- 9:00 Racism.....Ken Burleson
- 10:00 Pornography: Movies, Videos, TV, Music, MagazinesDarrell Beard
- 10:00 (Ladies Class) Discreet, Chaste, Keepers at Home (Titus 2:5).....Sue Case
- 11:00 Suicide, Assisted SuicideCharles Blair
- 1:30 Profanity, Pure Speech.....Daniel Coe
- 2:30 Medical EthicsRichard Guill
- 3:30 Digression - Update '94Wayne Coats
- 7:00 Suffering Persecution Because of Righteous LivingGarland M. Robinson
- 8:00 Refuse the Evil and Choose the Good.....Sidney White

East Corinth Church of Christ

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MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND



"We enjoy the paper very much and think it is among the "best." It is a great joy and spiritual feast you give us in every issue of this paper. I read every issue, please keep them coming. I very much appreciate preachers and elders

who will stand up for the truth. I am thankful for the great work that is being done through S.T.O.P. You have some great writers. Please keep them on your list. May God bless each person that is helping in any way to get this paper published" ...*Rock Island, TN*. "I appreciate the stand for truth evidenced in the two issues (May/June 1993) I have read. Keep up your efforts" ...*Natchez, MS*. "This check is a donation to help defray costs of the publication. I appreciate you sending it to me and enjoy reading it" ...*Baxter, TN*. "Just received the paper. Surely do appreciate it. Keep up the good work" ...*Jerome, ID*. "We enjoy S.T.O.P. very much. Keep up the good work" ...*Celina, TN*. "Thank you for remembering me with your fine paper S.T.O.P. I am beginning to feel like Lot (II Peter 2:7) "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." With all the filth that is being forced around us, almost as it was then, if not as bad. About all I can say is that, the old devil sure has most congregations snowed under and they are like Isa. 56:10, "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber." Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." Try and find a congregation that is faithful to the Lord, that can utilize logic and knows the difference between a specific article which is a definite article and indefinite article. Most do not know truth from error and could care less. What to do? You can't drag them to heaven and I hope they don't drag me with them to hell. ... I have been aware of the liberal element at White's Ferry Road in West Monroe, Louisiana for ten to fifteen years. I am happy to add the information you had in your May 1993 issue concerning them to what I already had. I come across some one now and then that is not informed and like to have all the information I can get on this source of error. They try to make their effort to teach God's word so that most do not see the liberal element and false doctrine coming forth from West Monroe. May God bless your every effort" ...*Aromas, CA*. "Enclosed is a check to show my appreciation for S.T.O.P. I don't know who asked that it be sent to me but I am thankful that they did. I have been much impressed with it in the short time I have received it. I appreciate immensely your strong stand for God's truth in these times where many are seeking to denominationalize the church. I am glad that it takes a firm and pointed stance but without the unnecessary acrimony of some papers. I knew with the first article I saw by brother Charles Pledge that it was a paper I could trust and wanted to continue receiving. It certainly deserves a wide circulation and I will recommend it to others" ...*Monticello, GA*. "May God bless your efforts to stem the tide of digression. I'm fighting too" ...*Natchez, MS*. "Thank you for making available S.T.O.P. to the church. The church needs this publication so very badly. I am thankful that there are still churches with elders and preachers who love the truth, and are willing to defend it" ...*Louisville, MS*. "The elders of the Looxahoma church of Christ want you to know that we appreciate your firm stand for the truth. We are glad to know there are yet many who have not bent the knee to Baal. Our prayers are with you as with all who will stand for the Lord and His pattern for New Testament Christianity" ...*Looxahoma, MS*. "Please remove from list" ...*Yazoo City, MS*. "This publication is both well written and (more importantly) faithful and true to the sacred Word of God. May the Lord bless and keep both the East Corinth church and brother Robinson for many years of proclaiming the truth of God's Word into the future for as long as He allows this earth to stand" ...*Tyler, TX*. "Please take my name off your mailing list. I do not wish to continue receiving your newsletter" ...*Sherman, TX*. "I appreciate your stand for truth and exposing false teachers. Truly, too many are crying "peace, peace" when there is no peace. Keep up the good work" ...*Henderson, TN*. "Please take my name off your mailing list" ...*Gainesboro, TN*. "I have read your October issue of S.T.O.P. and was so proud of your

firm stand for the truth. Please put us on your mailing list" ...*Sparta, TN*. "I am a sophomore at Vanderbilt University. I am so happy each month to see the scriptures taught through the articles in S.T.O.P. I know God is pleased with the work you all are doing. God bless you all" ...*Nashville, TN*. "We appreciate receiving S.T.O.P. Continue to send us a bundle" ...*Metropolis, IL*. "We appreciate your work so much and it is our prayer for the Lord to continue to bless you and your work" ...*Castro Valley, CA*. "We enjoy reading S.T.O.P. and read every issue in its entirety. Here is a contribution to help with this good work" ...*Magnolia, AR*. "We enjoy your paper so much. It is a great encouragement to us. We thank God every day for preachers like you and for sound churches. They are few and far apart in this area" ...*Culpeper, VA*. "Please put me on your mailing list. My brother and sister in law get your paper and praise it" ...*Oak Ridge, TN*. "We do enjoy your paper" ...*Sheridan, WY*. "I appreciate your work. Thank God for faithful men like you and your eldership for upholding the Lord of Truth. Your work helps encourage other good works to press on forward" ...*Watertown, TN*. "I enjoy receiving S.T.O.P. Here's hoping you keep this paper going because of the good I think it is doing. The way so many of the members of the liberal trend is going (the social route) to gain membership so they can entertain more and more of the members, especially the younger group. They don't seem to realize that when they stop entertaining them they will go where they can be entertained" ...*Wichita Falls, TX*. "I enjoy it very much. Thanks" ...*Bruceton, TN*. "Thank you so much for standing for the Truth. Wish we had many or all that would stand in the gap and say you cannot pass" ...*Hampton, AR*. "Thanks so much for the paper. I appreciate and enjoy every one. May God bless you in your endeavor to preach the Truth as the Bible states it. Our world is becoming worse seems like and it is a very few who will stand up and speak out. I will be praying for you" ...*Baxter, TN*.

Seek The Old Paths is a monthly publication of the East Corinth Church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. It is mailed FREE upon request. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3; II Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:13; Titus 2:1; II Peter 1:12. All mail received may be published unless otherwise noted. Articles are also welcomed.

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