

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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WHAT IS THE CHURCH ALL ABOUT?

Garland M. Robinson

The way many are now acting, you would think they have no concept of what the church of Christ is all about. When attention is called to false doctrine and those teaching and upholding it as commanded by a multitude of scriptures (see below), they react as if they are insulted and offended. By their words and actions they become compromisers and supporters of error in violation of II John 9-11. They are like those of we read about in Zechariah 7:11 who **“...refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.”** This same mind-set of people was also found in the audience of Stephen in Acts 7:57-58, **“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him....”**

It is no wonder that those we read of in Bible days have many kinfolks in the church today — God said there would be! **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”** (II Tim. 4:3-4). Paul said such people had **“...a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”** (II Tim. 3:1-5).

When Paul called together the chief of the Jews in Rome and expounded unto them concerning the kingdom of God, some believed while others did not. Concerning those who did not believe he said, **“...Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye**

shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (Acts 28:25-27).

When the faithful point out the error of those wrecking the church, the compromisers lift up their voices and wail. They pretend as if there is nothing going on at all. They make believe that anyone who claims connection with the church of Christ is sound and above reproach. Brethren, in this current age of digression, such is just not so! Men and women from every quarter are doing their best to carry the church headlong into apostasy and far too many sit idly by and do nothing while others, who may not presently teach false doctrine themselves, are playing patty-cake with those who do. The scriptures not only demand that we not teach false doctrine (I Tim. 1:3) but ALSO that we do not go along and support those who do (II John 9-11).

There are far too many like Jehoiakim who have willingly chosen to take a “pen-knife” and cut out of the Bible those parts which they choose not to obey (Jer. 36:23). Some of the passages which receive no attention at all with many are:

Matt. 7:15-16, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.”

Acts 20:29-31, “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall

men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Rom. 16:17-18, "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."

II Cor. 11:13-15, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Gal. 1:6-9, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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. 2:4-5, "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you."

Eph. 4:14-15, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Eph. 5:11, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

I Thess. 5:21, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Titus 1:9-11, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

II Peter 2:1-3, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

I John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

II John 1:9-11, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

Jude 1:3, "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 delivered unto the saints."

Beloved, the church of Christ is the kingdom of God. It will one day be presented to Christ as a chaste, pure virgin (II Cor. 11:2). Our command as Christians is to evangelize the lost (Mark 16:15) AND defend the church from enemies that it might remain spotless (Jude 3). So many seem to know nothing about defending it! They have no concept of what the church is all about. Their's is a twisted, warped concept of "one big happy family." I wish it were so! But such is not the case. Wake up, you who are sleeping. It's time to repent and join the good fight of faith (I Tim. 6:12; II Tim. 4:7). It's time to "earnestly contend for the faith" (Jude 3). It's time to defend the faith as Paul was determined to do (Phil. 1:7,17). "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things)" (Phil. 3:18-19).

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Church Discipline And Common Attitudes

Charles A. Pledge

Discipline is an educational process. Any society which does not exercise discipline of itself is doomed to destruction. No society or group of people can remain free and productive of good apart from discipline. Yet, as the society of God's people, the church, we have miserably failed to clarify and expedite the process of discipline. We know of no commandment around which so much ignorance prevails among preachers, elders, teachers, and others as the command of God to discipline ourselves. The common attitude is that Matthew 18:15-17 is the rule for all discipline. We have treated that passage like the denominations have used John 3:16 and with almost as much consistency and intelligence. It is past time we lay aside our ignorance, our indifference, and sometimes a calloused attitude and obey the Lord's commandment to discipline. Either that or prepare to face him in Judgment with rebellion and the blood of multitudes on our hands.

Often the excuse is offered that "we are without elders in our congregation." That excuse is an irresponsible evasion. A congregation without elders must still obey the Lord's commandments! The exercise of obedience does not depend upon the presence or absence of any group or individuals in the church. It depends upon the willing heart and educated moral judgment of the individual. Although elders, when present, must assume the lead in the action, it is not they who exercise discipline but the whole congregation. The elders merely initiate the action when they are present but in their absence the individuals in the congregation must accept that responsibility.

Some discipline is preventive. Some is corrective. Some is punitive. Two are especially obvious in the discipline process of the church: preventive and corrective. This article shall deal primarily with the corrective; the warning and withdrawal of fellowship.

Discipline of sin necessarily recognizes five categories of dealing with sin and the sinner in the New Testament. Space forbids extensive treatment of these categories but it is hoped the reader will study them beyond this article. Each of these categories is dealt with differently and may never be confused in application without

severe damage to the cause of Christ and the souls of men and women.

First, we have the category of **PERSONAL TRANSGRESSION** in Matthew 18:15-17: "*Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*" This is a matter that begins between two brothers. The opening remark of the Lord confines the action that follows to this sin. To try to apply it to every sinful act is a perversion of the Lord's teaching on it and will effectively prevent Scriptural discipline in other categories. The first effort is for the offended one to attempt to bring the offender to repentance. The second step, after the first fails, involves witnesses to this effort. If the offender refuses to repent at the second effort, the third step is to bring it before the church. The church (her elders), because witnesses to the due process are available, issues a warning to the offender. When the offender rejects that appeal and warning, the church is to count the offender as a heathen and publican. In short, the offender no longer enjoys the fellowship of the brethren because they no longer will extend that fellowship. The church considers that person as the Jews considered publicans and heathens; they maintained a complete social and spiritual aloofness.

Second, there is the category of **FALSE TEACHING**. Paul stated in Romans 16:17-18: "*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.*" This process is simple. The fact is obvious. The false teacher is one who teaches error due to selfish interests (he serves his own belly, v.18). This makes false teachers unreasonable and wicked (II Thess. 3:2). When the fact of

this is known, point them out for others to see and second, avoid them. Very simple. Whether it is when a false teacher comes into the congregation or whether the false teacher is on the other side of the earth, the process is the same.

The cry is that we must love them and try to win them back. Why countermand the orders of God who said mark them (point them out for others to see) and avoid them (have nothing else to do with them). Why such an abrupt action? Because they are dishonest. They teach what they teach to serve their own belly and not the Lord Jesus. This is not a reference to a young preacher who makes a terrible goof. This is not some brother who ignorantly affirms the false as true. This person of Romans 16 is described as acting out of selfish interests in doing what he does. He may have deliberately remained in ignorance and affirms error. He may have known the truth and now affirms error, but in either case he acts out of selfish interests. The process is simple and quick. It is the only safe process. There are those who fail to act out of intelligent knowledge who cry that we must apply the "rule" of Matthew eighteen to the false teacher. It is often impossible to go to the false teacher in person and if not in person then one can't obey the teaching of the Lord as set forth in Matthew chapter 18. To offer the lame excuse that one can write or call is ignoring what the Lord commanded. The Matthew eighteen passage does not, and cannot, apply here or in any of the rest of the categories discussed. Knowledgeable and honest brethren will allow it to remain in context and use it to deal with personal transgressions.

Third, we have the category of **IMMORALITY** in I Cor. 5:1-13. The process is simple. Paul told the Corinthians to deliver such a one to Satan; that is, exclude him from fellowship and turn him all the way back into the world. Paul told them to do it when they came together; that is, their next assembly after receiving his letter. Immorality is not something people are given a week, or month, or year in which to repent. Every act of gross immorality is an act known by the perpetrator to be sinful when done. Rebuke, warning, and appeal are all in order, but not over a long period. The more time involved, the harder the heart of the sinner becomes. Do it, and do it quickly, Paul commanded. After it was done don't even eat with such a one; let the withdrawal be complete in every way.

Fourth, we have the category of **DISORDERLY CONDUCT**, or **UNRULINESS**. These were to

first be warned, I Thess. 5:14: "*Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.*" The unruly here are those disorderly of II Thess. 3:6. These are the ones out of step with the gospel teaching. It is a broad category that covers everything from gossip and pride to forsaking the assembling together of saints; from drinking alcoholic beverages to using the name of the Lord in vain and telling obscene and profane jokes. Scripture nowhere tells us how long the warning process is to continue. This involves teaching, reproving, and rebuking of the sin with a warning as to the consequences and the course the church must take if persisted in.

When repentance is not effected in a period sufficient to teach, exhort, reprove and warn, action must be taken for the sake of the church before the whole church is affected. If sin of any sort is tolerated or justified, others will also sin. We read in Eccl. 8:11: "*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*" When the church, led by her elders, withdraws fellowship from this category, admonition (a negative process which is to put in mind of the sinner the seriousness of sin and a warning to the effect of consequences to be suffered) as a brother is to continue (II Thess. 3:14-15).

Fifth, we have the category of the **HERETIC**. Paul said in Titus 3:10: "*A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject.*" The heretic is subverted. He merely wishes to attract disciples after himself. The heretic is a self-willed person filled with the illusion of self-importance. In his vanity he will make statements and perform actions inconsistent with the gospel. Then, to save face, he will argue either that he was right or he didn't do or say it, or else that he was misunderstood. Paul said admonish him once but not more than twice and excuse yourself from such because he is subverted. If allowed to continue in fellowship he will overthrow the order and faith of the congregation. In the process of reasoning and teaching that is always done in order to ascertain such a condition, sufficient shall have been done to bring him to repentance, but repentance is rare in such a case. When his sin is fully determined, let the admonition and action be swift and decisive. Allow no door of influence to remain open until such a one fully repents and shows by his actions he has repented. Very few, if any, heretics repent because of the nature of their sin; dishonesty is a part of their character as

In the case of the false teacher.

Elders, when present in a congregation and because they are over the congregation, must take the lead in this action. Elders are the ones who are to be among the most qualified to teach (I Tim. 3:2). Elders are to be qualified to stop the mouths of gainsayers (Titus 1:9). Elders must be vigilant enough to perceive the beginning of the efforts of the sinners in each of the categories in order to watch for the souls of the flock. Elders are those who watch for and rule over those in the congregation (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20:28). It is an awesome responsibility and one fraught with endless frustrations and obstacles. They often need assistance and they may obtain assistance in a number of ways, but they must oversee (superintend) the whole process and be in the lead in the matter.

When elders reject their God ordained responsibility in this they are in the category of dumb dogs spoken of by Isaiah in Isaiah 56:10: watchmen who will not warn because they are blind and ignorant (so Isaiah said). When elders allow worldly minds in the congregation (or without) to dissuade them of their appointed responsibilities in this, they cease to be rulers over God's flock and are subject themselves to the malady of worldliness.

Elders have a difficult, and often a thankless task. But it is one that carries a great heavenly reward because in the final accounting, if they have served well and the flock has followed, they shall give accounting with joy (Heb. 13:17). The prayers of all need to be on behalf of those sincere, godly men who earnestly strive to serve the Lord as elders (bishops, overseers) of the congregations across the land. May their noble efforts be crowned with righteous success.

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A Strange Philosophy Pervades The Land!

There is an old saying that seems to be going out of style; that saying is: "Crime doesn't pay." Modern-day attitudes and the actions of some people, both in and out of government circles, are making the statement untrue unless you consider the results of the crime in the light of eternity.

A criminal, who had been guilty of a number of crimes of violence, killed a man in the course of a robbery. He was eventually brought to trial and found guilty. The sentence handed down in compliance with the law was death in the electric chair. After every avenue of appeal had been exhausted, the date of the execution was set. Immediately there was a great cry of protest. So-called religious leaders rallied to the "right of the man to live." Capital punishment was condemned as "inhuman punishment." Isn't it strange that there was great concern about the rights of the criminal who had so disregarded the rights of others even to the taking of human life? Isn't it strange that there was no interest at all in the rights of the innocent who had suffered much because of the criminal activities of the man to be executed?

This same philosophy seems to be gaining momentum in the church of Christ. A false teacher is guilty of espousing false doctrine and promotes it so that many members are led away from the truth. Some, who are still concerned about the truth, expose the false doctrine and mark the false teacher by identifying him (Romans 16:17). Immediately—there is a cry of protest from some who even go so far as to condemn and demean those who have the courage to expose the teacher and his doctrine.

Paul warned Christians about false teachers, and so did Peter, and John and the other writers of the New Testament. Paul named those who made shipwreck of faith so that there could be no doubt as to the identity of the false teachers.

An overgrown sense of tolerance for brethren who are guilty of promoting false doctrines will result in the loss of souls and the rejection of the church by Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:14-16).

—Author unknown—

Seek The Old Paths

Lectureship

July 25-29, 1993

Theme:

**"Preaching Needed For
The Nineties"**

East Corinth Church of Christ

When Did We Start Going To Denominations To Learn How To Build The Lord's Church Or To Save Souls????!!!

O. B. Porterfield

I recently received a letter that I assume was mailed to all, or at least most, of the gospel preachers in this area. It was an invitation for my wife and me to attend a Birmingham, Alabama, church of Christ to learn how to build the church. The preacher who wrote this letter expressed that he and another preacher had recently attended a seminar in a northern state and came home excited, challenged and more committed than ever to win souls.

He said they attended a church that had grown from 0 to 17,000 members in just seventeen years. The astounding claim was that 80% of their growth was due to conversions and not transfers. The letter continued that it would be a shame for us to miss out on this information since we lived so close.

I thought, oh how great this is! I wasn't aware that the Lord's church had a congregation with anywhere near this size membership or that could claim such outstanding growth.

I called the number on the letter in order to talk with the preacher. He was out, but a young man who, as I recall, said he worked with the youth talked to me.

NOW BRACE YOURSELF... I identified myself, the congregation and city I was from and told him that I was interested in learning more about this visit and this fast-growing church. **HERE IS WHAT I FOUND OUT...**

First, the young man said something like, "I am nearly scared to talk to someone I don't know and some who I do know." Why would he make such a statement? I wouldn't have any reservations discussing any event at Seibles Road. He talked to me, though, and I believe I understand his fear in talking about the seminar.

These brethren had not been to a congregation of the church of Christ. They had attended a seminar at a denominational church called the **Willow Creek Community Church** near Chicago. These men shouldn't be afraid of talking about going to a denominational church to learn their methods and inviting brethren to hear about it. **THEY SHOULD BE ASHAMED!** Denominational churches and their false teachers are a curse

making havoc of Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20-21.

Upon my questioning, this young man said that there were some fundamental differences between this church and the church of Christ. For instance: they sprinkled for baptism in the winter and encouraged the people to be immersed in the summer. Have you ever heard of anything more ridiculous?

I have in my possession a copy of USA WEEK-END which is an insert in the Detroit News and Free Press. It is dated April 13-15, 1990. The cover titled "Gimme That New-Time Religion" refers to a story inside entitled "McChurch."

The writer of the article says, "One place getting a lot of attention these days is Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois.

"Pastor Bill Hybel's answer for getting 30 and 40 year-olds into the tent: Marketing. Ask consumers what they want then let them (as they say at Burger King), have it their way.

"At non-denominational Willow Creek, that means a slick, show biz service where drama and soft rock are served up on a stage washed in pink and blue spotlights. A soft-sell sermon is delivered by Hybels from a Lucite lectern.

"His marketing approach recognizes boomers don't have their parents' denominational loyalty - they shop around: 'The 45-and-under generation has a consumer-oriented mindset. They patronize the restaurants and stores they like, and they'll attend a church for the same reason.'

"At Willow Creek they have drama, humor and pop music, not archaic hymns."

The article reports that the Sunday service in part is a baited hook for the shopper and, once landed, people are invited to the core group that meets mid-week for Bible-focused sermons including weekly communion.

Well, what we have here are a lot of gimmicks instead of Bible preaching and teaching. Many of these gimmicks have slipped into some congregations of the Lord's church and we can now see where these ideas originate. Certainly not in the Word of God!

We have the book of Acts that tells us how to build the church. We don't need a group of people who teach error like the Willow Creek Community Church to instruct those in the Lord's church how to teach the Truth.

What do you suppose is going to be next?

Christians should study the Word of God to know and understand it and be able to teach it to others.

The church of Christ tells the world that the Word of God is sufficient and that it is all that we need. It seems that some, though, just aren't satisfied with the Bible way of doing things. They have to add some man-made ideas to draw a crowd. If the Word of God won't draw the crowds and if it isn't the Word of God that people obey, **WHAT GOOD IS IT???**

God never told anyone to shop around to find what pleases them in religion. We are to study to find out what God commands and render obedience.

If people would be satisfied with God's Way, denominations would cease to exist and the Lord's prayer in John 17 would become a reality.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: I have listened to J. Wayne Kilpatrick (Homewood Church of Christ, Birmingham, AL) tell of his visit to Willow Creek Community Church. He says he makes a point to attend lectureships that are not conducted by folks that are a part of our fellowship. He said there has to be something "better" than attending "our" lectureships where error is exposed and heresy is put down. He describes contending for the faith as "babbling." He attends denominations' lectureships to learn something inspiring and some "good stuff" that he can bring home and share. He did say he had some major problems with some of the things they do. But the question is, shall we do evil that good may come? (cf. Rom. 3:8)

THEY SAID, "WE'RE ALL SINNERS"

by Bill Jackson

We never used to hear this applied to those who have and are obeying the Christ. And I venture we'd never hear it now, except that some in the kingdom have now a greater appetite for works of a sectarian nature than they have for the material in the New Testament. In these last several years we note three usages of the expression:

(1) When some want to call the mechanical instrument of music "an expedient," and thus not a bar to our fellowship with others in the religious

world, the argument is that we should join in with them, regardless of Biblical differences, because "we're all sinners, you know."

(2) When some do not want any denominational or sectarianism exposed at all, preferring that all live in error and go to torment rather than disturb them with truth, the point is made, "After all, we're all sinners!"

(3) And, when the church moves out to withdraw fellowship from an erring member, those who stand against the Word and take the part of the sinful person speak of how badly he's been treated, and "They shouldn't have done it, for we're all sinners!"

We beg to disagree! Those who make up the kingdom of God, and who are living and serving faithfully in Christ, **ARE NOT SINNERS!** Indeed, in the very context speaking of our obeying the gospel of the Lord, we're told that we are then "dead to sin" (Rom. 6:2), rising up from that dying to walk in newness of life (v.4), and that being dead, we are freed from sin (v.7). Paul continues, and again makes the point that we are to reckon ourselves "dead indeed unto sin" (v.11).

Does this mean the child of God will not err at all? No, for John tells us that we will sin (I John 1:8-10), and our Master taught us to confess faults as a part of the model prayer (Matt. 6:12), and again, John tells us to confess sins that we might obtain forgiveness. Paul aids us again in letting us know that in being "dead unto sin," the idea is that sin no longer reigns within us that we obey it (Rom. 6:12).

Such is not the case of the man the New Testament calls **A SINNER**. He has not obeyed the gospel of the Lord, and he lives in sin and works in sin as a mode of his life – walking according to the course of the world, in a spirit of disobedience, living in the lusts of the flesh and of the mind, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, etc. (Eph. 2:2-3). Such is **NOT** the case of the child of God!

Yes, when we hear one of our own declare, "Well, we're all sinners," put him down as one who has become soft on some matter wherein the Bible declares that we are to firmly stand for truth! And, when we hear it, knowing that he's spending less time with his Bible than he is with some printed material of a sectarian sort, we can wonder just what television evangelist has influenced him! Again the point: **THE CHRISTIAN IS NOT A SINNER!**

(The Southwesterner, 2/26/90)

Announcement Regarding SEEK THE OLD PATHS

For several months now we have published *Seek The Old Paths* only every-other-month. Beginning with this issue (our fourth year of publication) it will be printed EVERY MONTH. So many have been so encouraging concerning it and the material so needful that the elders have decided to publish it with more frequent regularity. We are presently mailing 4,500 but soon expect the mailing list to grow to 10,000 and perhaps beyond. It is mailed FREE to all who request it. The postage expense amounts to 75% of the cost with the remaining 25% going only for paper, printing plates, ink, etc. We do the entire process ourselves: typesetting, printing, folding, assembling, labeling, etc. No expense is involved in labor, only materials. There's no way it could be done any cheaper unless someone did it for us and donated it! Many have expressed a desire to help financially in this great work and many individuals have already sent contributions. Every one is greatly appreciated. The cost per issue is presently about \$675. The expense is great but the good being done and the rewards being reaped make it all worth the effort and cost. The calls and letters we receive from across the country make this "labor of love" very rewarding. When the cost is averaged out per piece (only 15 cents), it doesn't look bad at all, in fact, it is hardly anything! What can you buy for 15 cents a month? That's only \$1.80 a year per household! This is such a small price to pay to carry the Gospel literally around the world and to help save some from apostasy who are heading that way. If you or anyone you know would like to be added to the mailing list, give us the address. We also accept articles for publication. If you read a good article or write one yourself you believe needs wider circulation, feel free to submit it to us. We look forward to coming into your home every month!

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."

Jeremiah 6:16

If you wish to continue receiving *Seek The Old Paths*, send us your intention to do so or you will be deleted from the list beginning in March.

Updating Mailing List!

This issue begins our fourth year of publication. We have never updated the mailing list. Because of rising costs we must now do so. We certainly desire to send *Seek The Old Paths* FREE to all who request it and will read it. If you desire to continue on our mailing list, send us a note or call us to confirm your intention (Please include the code number on your label). This notice is only for those who have been on the mailing list prior to January 1991. Please look at your address label. If it says, **SEND YOUR RENEWAL NOW**, then please do so or you will be deleted from the mailing list beginning in March. If your label does not include this statement then you will continue to receive it. Thanks for your help.

**Send us your renewal!
Don't delay!**

Seek The Old Paths is a publication of the East Corinth Church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. 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.

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