

Seek The Old Paths

“Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...and walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16)

Vol. 1 No. 7

April 1990

WHERE ARE THE WATCHMEN? HAVE YOU HEARD THE TRUMPET?

Glenn B. Ramsey

In the book of Ezekiel (2:3-5; 3:1-21 and 33:7-9) the prophet is given the charge of being the watchman-prophet to apostate Israel. In simple form, the message he was to preach was the message of repentance to sinful Israel. Though many did not think the situation merited such a reproof, God did! And the prophet (preacher) of God was obligated to the charge to make such known.

In a real sense there must be watchmen over spiritual Israel today. These must be men who heed the word of Jehovah (from His inspired Word) and sound the warning to an apostate church! But are we assuming that the church of Christ is apostate today — that each congregation is, or that each member is apostate? Certainly not! As a matter of fact, many of Israel in Ezekiel's day were not apostate — but many were; and the charge was given to bring back to God those who would

listen and to allow those who so chose to judge themselves unworthy of God's blessings. So it is today in Spiritual Israel. While there are many who are faithful to God's charge and serve Him with their entire being, it is a sad fact that many are indifferent toward the whole of Christianity, ignorant for the most part of God's Word, unwilling to submit to the authority of the Bible and in general, so materialistic that they can only think in terms of the pleasantries of this life. Everything many do in the name of religion must be viewed against the pragmatic background of how this will enhance their position with the material world! Thus in the view of these materialists, if the truth does not enhance one's position or the position of the church with the worldly community, that truth must be rejected!

Where are the watchmen? Who is sounding the warning trumpet? Ezekiel was told that a failure to sound the

warning would result in the blood of all guilty ones being upon the hands of the watchman. Where are the preachers that are willing to be so "opinionated", "narrow", and "dogmatic" that they will stand and "preach the word" with the reproof, rebuking, and exhortation that will make the difference today? (See 2 Timothy 4:1-4).

Many are the preachers and the elders of the Lord's church today who, when asked what they are doing related to many important matters of faith and doctrine which are being compromised or directly violated in many areas, will respond that they "do not know about such things" and they "do not care" about them since, as they perceive it, such does not affect them and their congregation. This indifference causes the watchmen to not watch, and the trumpeters not to sound the alarm!

There is now a generation that does not know the Word of God. Many have made arguments "for the use of instrumental music in worship" which by their admission resulted from not knowing too much about the Bible. Some defend fraternal orders as being proper for Christian participation and thus demonstrate the drought of knowledge they have of God's Word. Some seem to think that they can fellowship anyone who says he believes in Christ and work with that person even though he does not bring (teach, or practice) the doctrine of Christ. These demonstrate their shortage of Bible knowledge (See II John 9-11). Many are teachers who need again to be taught! Ignorance of the Word should cause a trumpet sound!

Beside all this, there are multitudes

in the church who not only do not know the Word, but they do not even respect the Word (portions of it) they do "know." When social drinking, dancing, immodesty in dress, indecency of speech, etc., is a common thing among "professing Christians" and there is not a voice (trumpet) raised against such — there is a real problem. There are congregations where the preacher knows (whether by direct order of the elders or by less direct requirements) that he is not to preach on such things. And these "preachers" who desire to hold their jobs more than trying to please God and be His Watchmen, yield to men rather than to the Lord!

The consequences of materialism are seen in each of the above situations — and more! The important thing to many is having a fine building in which to meet; maintaining a proper "image" in the community; and having a preacher that will not excite any "animosity" against the church by preaching so plainly that members of denominations will think that he thinks that they are wrong!

As unpleasant as it may seem to some, the charge to preach the word must be obeyed or the watchman will forfeit his right to God's blessing and will receive the punishment of hell instead! How can the soldiers of Christ attack with any success the enemies of the church on the outside if they are unwilling to attack and clean out the cup from within?

Where are the watchmen? Have you heard the trumpet? ★

P.O. Box 865, Cookeville, TN 38501



How long were the six days of Genesis one?

It is odd that anyone would ask such a question! Where would such an idea come from? Not the Bible!!! How long were the first six days of 1990? When you discover that period of time, you will also have determined how long the six days of creation were in Genesis one. Days are divided into 24 equal segments called hours, not only now, but at the beginning as well.

However, those who wish to cause disbelief in the Bible would have us believe the *six days of creation* were long eons of time made up of millions and millions of years! Incredible! A DAY has never been anything other than a DAY. This attempt is made in an effort to harmonize the THEORY of evolution with the TRUTH (the Bible is truth, John 17:17). It cannot be done.

The day-age theory (the belief that one day in Genesis 1 was millions and millions of years long) is shot-full of problems and cannot possibly be considered by any logical thinking person. Here are several reasons why the days in Genesis one were 24 hour days just as we measure them now:

1. There is no reason whatsoever from the context to under-

stand them otherwise. Search the Bible from beginning to end and there is absolutely no evidence to view them in any other way than 24 hours each.

2. God said he created ALL things in six days and rested on the seventh. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day" (Exodus 20:11). This is used as our standard of measuring time today. Our week is based on those seven days at the beginning. Did God lie to us about what he did? NO!!

3. The Hebrew word YOM (day), is defined for us in the context. "And God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day" (vs. 5,8,13,19,23,31). The day was divided into both an evening and a morning, just as today! No long periods of time there!

4. When the word YOM is used with a number (such as 1st day, 2nd day), it always means a 24 hour day. The word occurs over 100 times in this manner and *always* indicates a period of 24 hours in length. There's no exception here!

5. When the word YOM is used in the plural (days) it always means 24 hour days. Exodus 20:11 says "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is." There's no other use of the plural YOM except in this manner.

6. If God wanted us to understand he made everything over billions of years, he could have used words which indicate it. The Hebrew words "Olam" and "Dor" both indicate

an indefinite period of time. He could have used either of these words, but did not. He used the word which describes the length of time he took, a DAY. If God did, in fact, take billions of years to make the earth but tells us he only took six days, that would make God a LIAR! God does not lie (Titus 1:2).

7. God made "lights" to divide the day from the night (v.14). These lights, sun and moon (v.16), were for "signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years." The sun was made to measure a "day." If a day were millions of years, what then was a year, a night? No one can answer it!

8. If a day were millions of years, we have a problem with "plant life." Plants were created the 3rd day (vs.11-12) and the sun the 4th day (v.14). Plants need sunlight to survive. Also, some plants must have insects for cross pollination, yet the insects were not created until the sixth day (v.24). How could the plants have survived millions of years without sunlight and/or insects to reproduce them-

selves? This is a grave problem for the evolutionist!

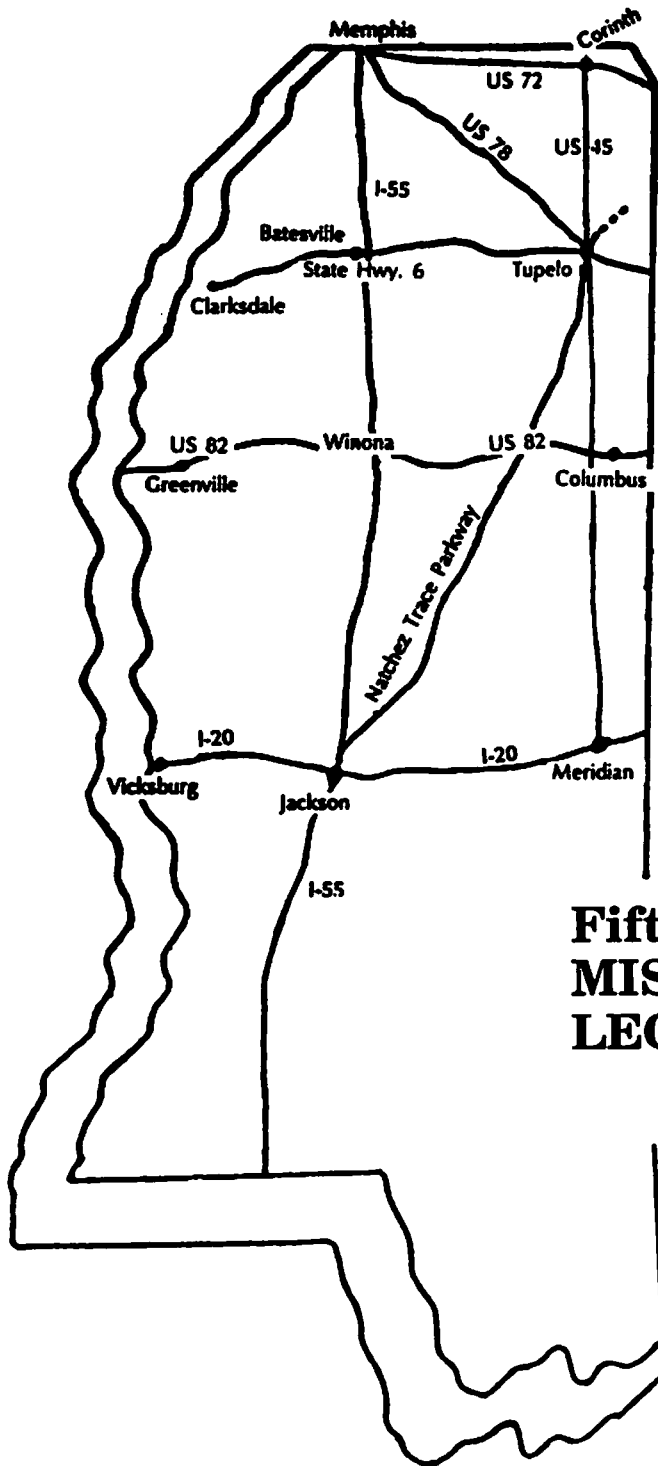
9. The age of Adam makes "geologic ages" impossible. If one day represents millions of years as this theory says, think about this: Adam was created on the 6th day (1:27), lived the rest of that day, all of the 7th day and at least a part of the 8th day (Chapter 3). Will evolution believe Adam was millions of years old?

10. God used the 7th day of rest as an example for Israel to keep. Because God worked 6 days and rested the 7th, Israel was to work 6 days and rest the 7th (Exodus 20:9-11). Was Israel to work millions of years multiplied by 6 times over and then rest millions of years as God did? They would have had to if evolution be true!

Why would anyone believe in and try to defend such a preposterous belief? They care nothing for the evidence and instead, choose to walk in their own foolish ways. "*Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools*" (Romans 1:22). What do you believe?

74 REFERENCES ON DRINKING

1. Gen. 9:20-26 — The first drunkenness and the attendant immoral behavior.
2. Gen. 19:30-38 — Drinking results in Lot's debauchery of his own daughters.
3. Gen. 27:25 — Isaac was drinking when he mistakenly blessed Jacob.
4. Lev. 10:9 — An express command to Aaron not to drink.
5. Num. 6:3 — The vow of the Nazarite.
6. Deut. 21:20 — Drinking goes with stubbornness, rebellion, and gluttony and brings dishonor to parents.
7. Deut. 29:2-6 — Abstinence assures a closer walk with God.
8. Judg. 13:4,7,14 — Samson's mother, an example of all womanhood, was commanded not to drink. QUES-



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New Testament Questions

July 29 – Aug. 2

**Fifth Annual
MISSISSIPPI
LECTURESHIP
1990**

Fifth Annual Mississippi Lectureship July 29 – Aug. 2, 1990

“New Testament Questions”

Director: Sidney White

SUNDAY, JULY 29

- 9:45 “What do ye more than others? (Matt. 5:47) Ronnie Whittemore
10:35 “What doth hinder me to be baptized? What must I do to be saved?”
(Acts 8:36; Acts 16:30) Leon Willis
7:00 “How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him?”
(Matt. 18:21) Victor Eskew
7:45 “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose
his own soul?” (Mark 8:36) Charles Blair

MONDAY, JULY 30

- 9:00 “From heaven, or of men?” (Matt. 21:25) Melvin Sapp
10:00 “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things?” (Luke 24:26) Billy Bland
10:00 (Ladies Class) “From whence then hast thou that living water?” (John 4:11) . Irene Taylor
11:00 “Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest
not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:3) Neil Myers
1:30 “Unto what is the kingdom of heaven like?” (Luke 13:18) Jerry Joseph
2:30 “Is Christ divided?” (I Cor. 1:13) Robert R. Taylor, Jr.
3:30 Questions & Answers Robert R. Taylor, Jr.
7:00 “For what is your life?” (James 4:14) (YOUTH NIGHT) Garland M. Robinson
7:45 “What is the great commandment in the law?” (Matt. 22:36) Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

TUESDAY, JULY 31

- 9:00 “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
(Luke 6:46) Gilbert Gough
10:00 “Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”
(Gal. 4:16) Winston Temple
10:00 (Ladies Class) “Why trouble ye her?” (Mark 14:6) Maggie Colley
11:00 “Where are the nine?” (Luke 17:17) Gary Colley
1:30 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” (Heb. 2:3) Lance Foster
2:30 “How shall he take care of the church of God?” (I Tim. 3:5) Virgil Hale
3:30 Questions & Answers Virgil Hale

- 7:00 "By what authority doest thou these things?" (Matt. 21:23) Kenneth Burleson
 7:45 "Do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men?"
 (Gal. 1:10) Virgil Hale

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

- 9:00 "Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" (Luke 5:21) Charles Tharp
 10:00 "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34) Charles Blair
 10:00 (Ladies Class) "Doest thou not care?" (Luke 10:40) Ida Nell Jarrell
 11:00 "Can the blind lead the blind?" (Luke 6:39) Richard Guill
 1:30 "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?"
 (Matt. 19:3) Joe Nichols
 2:30 "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"
 (I Cor. 5:6) Charles Leonard
 3:30 Questions & Answers Charles Leonard
 7:00 "Have ye not read?" (Matt. 19:4) Edward White
 7:45 "Who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matt. 3:7) ... Charles Leonard

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

- 9:00 "Who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (Gal. 3:1) Jeff Bates
 10:00 "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?"
 (I Thess. 2:19) Wendell Fikes
 10:00 (Ladies Class) "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29) Doris Fikes
 11:00 "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"
 (James 2:20) Jimmy Bates
 1:30 "Are ye not then partial in yourselves?" (James 2:4) Terry Cole
 2:30 "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49) James Boyd
 3:30 Questions & Answers James Boyd
 7:00 "Where is the promise of his coming?" (II Peter 3:4) James Boyd
 7:45 "What manner of persons ought ye to be?" (II Peter 3:11) Sidney White

The FIFTH ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI LECTURESHIP, like the first four, is the result of the cooperative efforts of brethren of like faith and kindred spirit in the greater Mississippi area, seeking to bring glory to The Almighty, through the proclamation of His sacred Word.

**This series of lessons will be held at:
 East Main church of Christ, Tupelo, Mississippi 38801
 (601) 842-6116 or 842-9344**

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AML EXHIBITS

Exhibit space will be available subject to the approval of the East Main elders. Please reserve exhibit space in advance of the lectureship.

AML AUDIO & VIDEO TAPES

All lessons will be available on audio tapes and may be purchased during the lectureship or by mail. No recorders will be allowed in the pulpit area. All lessons will also be available on video tapes. Purchasing information will be available at the lectureship or by mail.

AML BOOKS

The lectureship book, "NEW TESTAMENT QUESTIONS", will consist of full-content outlines of the lessons and will be available during the lectureship and by mail. The cost will be \$3.00 (plus \$1 postage on mail orders).

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- TION: Was alcohol recognized even then as a protoplasmic poison, injuring posterity?
9. I Sam. 1:14-15 - Hannah, an example of honored motherhood, was a total abstainer.
 10. I Sam. 25:33,36-38 - Nabal, a rich but churlish man who opposed David, died after a drunken spree. He had already lost his wife's respect.
 11. II Sam. 11:13 - Only by strong drink could David lead Uriah into a fatal trap.
 12. II Sam. 13:28-29 - Ammon, in a drunken brawl, was murdered by his brother Absalom.
 13. I Kings 16:8-10 - While a king was "drinking himself drunk," one of his captains conspired against him and slew him.
 14. I Kings 20:13-21 - Drink and war. While Ben Hadad and thirty-two other kings were drinking in their pavilions, a small band of Israel's men fell upon the Syrians and put them to flight.
 15. Esther 1:5-22 - Drink wrecks homes and separates man and wife. At a week's feast of food and wine, King Ahasuerus drunkenly tried to subject his queen to the beastly gaze of inebriated nobles, causing separation of the royal husband and wife.
 16. Job 1:18-19 - The children of Job were feasting and drinking when blown away by a cyclone.
 17. Prov. 4:17 - Violence results in drinking.
 18. Prov. 20:1 - No wise man will indulge.
 19. Prov. 21:17; 23:21 - Drink leads to poverty.
 20. Prov. 23:7-8 - The body rebels after drinking.
 21. Prov. 23:29-30 - Strong drink produces sorrow, contentions, wounds without cause, babblings, redness of eyes.
 22. Prov. 23:31 - Do not be tempted by intoxicants.
 23. Prov. 23:32 - God's word warns that liquor eventually harms all who drink.
 24. Prov. 23:33 - It fills men's minds with adulterous and impure thoughts.
 25. Prov. 23:33 - It produces wilfulness and prevents reformation.
 26. Prov. 23:34 - It brings on insecurity.
 27. Prov. 23:35 - Insensibility follows drinking, rendering man into a clod.
 28. Prov. 23:35 - Habit forming. One drink calls for another.
 29. Prov. 31:4-5 - Kings and all other rulers or officials with the weight of human lives in their control should not imbibe.
 30. Prov. 31:6-7 - The only sanction for the use of strong drink was as a medicine or anesthetic for those about to die. We now know better medicines and anesthetics than whisky, wine, and beer.
 31. Ecc. 2:3 - The writer of Ecclesiastes tried strong drink, but in the end was forced to admit that it, too, was vanity. (Cf. Ecc. 12:8)
 32. Ecc. 10:17 - Blessings are promised to the temperate and abstaining nation.
 33. Isa. 5:11-12 - Woe to the drunkards.
 34. Isa. 5:22 - More woes to them that drink.
 35. Isa. 22:13 - Drinking and carnality go together and leaves men hopeless.

36. Isa. 24:9 — Drink is bitter to them that drink.
37. Isa. 28:1 — Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim.
38. Isa. 28:3 — The pride of drunkards will be trodden down.
39. Isa. 28:7 — Prophets and priests have erred through drink.
40. Isa. 28:7 — Those who drink are set aside as useless.
41. Isa. 28:7 — Prophets are swallowed up by drink.
42. Isa. 28:7 — Drinking brings on spiritual blindness.
43. Isa. 56:9,12 — Rebuke to drinking people of God, His watchmen.
44. Jer. 35:5,6,8,14 — Total abstinence of the Rechabites cited as an example of obedience on the part of God's people.
45. Ezek. 44:21 — Priests are not to drink wine.
46. Dan. 1:5,8,16; 10:3 — God honored Daniel because he abstained from the king's wine. Daniel the man, was true to the home training he had received as a boy.
47. Dan. 5:1 — Belshazzar exhibited as an example of a leader who drank and taught people to drink.
48. Dan. 5:2,23 — A nation whose women drink.
49. Dan 5:5-9,25,28 — Ruin and down-fall for nations whose rulers and leaders cause them to drink.
50. Dan. 5:3 — Belshazzar's sacrilege in using sacred temple vessels for liquor.
51. Hos. 4:11 — Strong drink and immorality go hand in hand.
52. Hos. 7:5 — King and people reprovved because of drinking.
53. Joel 1:5 — Drunkards to awake from their drinking.
54. Joel 3:3 — Young virtue sold for the price of a drink.
55. Amos 2:8 — Wine of the condemned.
56. Amos 2:12 — Pollution of the innocent.
57. Amos 4:1 — Dissolute women, oppressors of the poor, call for their liquor.
58. Amos. 6:6 — Drinkers not concerned about God nor the welfare of others.
59. Nah. 1:10 — Drunkards to be destroyed.
60. Hab. 2:5 — Arrogance inflamed by drink.
61. Hab. 2:15 — Wrong to give one's neighbor drink — social drinking.
62. Hab. 2:16 — Drink leads to shame and humiliation.
63. Matt. 24:48-51 — Drunkards warned about the return of Christ and his judgment.
64. Luke 1:15 — Greatness of John the Baptist linked with his total abstinence.
65. Luke 12:45 — Christ warns against being enmeshed in drunken evils.
66. Luke 21:34 — Warning against drunkenness and the cares of this life which follow, keeping one occupied to the exclusion of the Spirit.
67. Rom. 13:13 — All are admonished to walk honestly, not in rioting and drunkenness. It is not honest to be less than men, created in the image of God.
68. Rom. 14:21 — Drinking causes a brother to stumble. Importance of example.
69. I Cor. 6:10 — No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. (Therefore, the preaching of the gospel must include alcohol education.)

- 70. I Cor. 11:25 – The Lord’s Supper no place for wine. Word “wine” not even used. Instead, all accounts say “the cup” or “fruit of the vine.”
- 71. Gal. 5:21 – Revelers in drunkenness shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
- 72. Eph. 5:18 – Direct command that exhilaration shall be of the Spirit and not by wine.
- 73. I Thess. 5:7 – Sobriety enjoined upon the Thessalonians. Children of light must not be overcome by darkness.
- 74. I Tim. 3:3,8,11,12 – Church officers must not drink; neither should their

families.

“Young people must realize that beer is not a temperate beverage, but an intoxicating liquor that often leads to trouble and lawlessness; that it leads many to create the habit of drinking, a habit that progresses in many cases to stronger liquors; and that beer taverns are often instruments of moral corruption and debauchery.”

–Ernest S. Underwood–

Matt. 28:19-20			Mark 16:15-16		
Examples Of Conversion					
PREACHING	BELIEVE	REPENT	CONFESS	BAPTIZE	SAVED
3,000 Acts 2:14-47		Repent 37-38		Baptize 38-41	Remission 38, 47
Eunuch Acts 8:35-39	Believe 36-37		Confess 37	Baptize 38	Rejoiced 39
Saul Acts 9:17-18 Acts 22:6-16				Baptize 18	Sins Washed Away 22:16
Cornelius Acts 10:1-48	Believe 31, 34			Baptize 48	Remission 43
Jailer Acts 16:27-34	Believe 31,34			Baptize 33	Rejoiced 34
Lydia Acts 16:13-15				Baptize 15	Faithful 15
PREACHING	FAITH	REPENTANCE	CONFESSION	BAPTISM	SALVATION
Rom. 10:14	Heb. 11:6	Luke 13:3	Rom. 10:9-10	Gal. 3:27	II Tim. 2:10

Questions Seventh Day Adventists Will Not Answer

- ◆ Which Catholic pope changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday?
- ◆ Name the secular or church document that changed the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.
- ◆ Can one Scripture be produced that commanded anyone from Adam to Moses to keep the sabbath?
- ◆ Is there a Scripture that commands the Gentiles to keep the sabbath in any dispensation?
- ◆ Is there a Scripture in the Bible that mentions a moral or ceremonial law?
- ◆ If the keeping of the seventh day is imperative, why did Christ not command it? And why did the apostles neither command it, nor condemn its non-observance?
- ◆ Seventh Day Adventists stress the failure to keep the sabbath as the great sin, the mark of the beast. Then why is it that the lists of sins recorded in the New Testament never mention the sin of not keeping the sabbath? For example, in Mark 7:21-22 thirteen sins are listed; in Romans 1:29-31 nineteen sins are listed; in Galatians 5:19-21 eighteen sins are listed. In all the great warnings concerning sins, why was not failure to keep the sabbath day given prominence? It was not mentioned. Why?
- ◆ Where in the Bible is the term "The law" ever applied to the Decalogue apart from the rest of the law of Moses?
- ◆ Is the law of Moses and the law of the Lord two different laws? Or anything other than the ten commandments?
- ◆ How could the sabbath be a sign between God and Israel (Exodus 31:17) if other nations are included? ★

This issue includes the schedule of the 1990 Annual Mississippi Lectures. This year, the date has been changed to the week of the last Sunday in July. The theme is "NEW TESTAMENT QUESTIONS." Last year's "Old Testament" was greatly received and this year promises to be the same. We look forward to meeting you then! If there are those in the state you wish to receive **Seek The Old Paths**, please furnish us their complete address and we will include them on the mailing. Remember Jer. 6:16 & II Peter 1:10.

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 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:1; II Peter 1:12. Manuscripts are welcome.

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