

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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Countermanding God's Orders

Charles A. Pledge

Will any right thinking person deliberately countermand God's orders? When God gives an order, who is presumptuous enough to give a contrary order or command? Preposterous? **No!** Not if we look at what has happened among us.

This article is not another article exposing false teachers, although every false teacher presumes to issue teaching that countermands the doctrine of God. Rather, this article is about those of us who claim to love the Lord in truth and righteousness; those of us who claim to honor the authority of scripture. To ourselves we must look lest we lose the heavenly blessings in Christ now and forever.

A specific case in point is our handling of false teachers (teachers who teach doctrine contrary to the faith of Jesus; doctrine that will damn the soul when believed and practiced). God is very plain in exposing false teachers. He tells us the false teacher serves not the Lord Jesus Christ but his own belly (selfish interests), Rom. 16:18. Show us an honest false teacher and you will find a dishonest God and lying Scripture. God says they serve their own selfish interests. We read again in Ephesians 4:14: *“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.”* The *“every wind of doctrine”* is doctrine contrary to the doctrine of Christ. Paul said those who teach such use sleight (trickery) and cunning craftiness (unscrupulous actions; actions not based on honest goodness). You can expect a false teacher to tell the truth only when

it best serves his purpose. Otherwise, don't expect the truth. That is the main reason they are called false teachers.

Why did Jesus rebuke so severely the Pharisees? Because they had wilfully closed their eyes, stopped their ears, and hardened their hearts against the truth (Matt. 13:15). It was in view of this fact that Jesus said in Matt. 15:14: *“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”* It was in this perspective that Jesus taught in Matt. 7:6: *“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”* The apostle Paul taught the Thessalonians that unreasonable men (men who refuse to listen to evidence) are wicked. We read in II Thess. 3:2: *“And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.”* Why are unreasonable men wicked men? Because they have dishonest hearts. In the parable of the sower Jesus emphasized two kinds of hearts: the good and the bad. The good was first honest. Except the heart be honest, it can never be good. Jesus stated in this order, *“The honest and good heart.”* Never is it good, then honest.

We have a very simple command given concerning false teachers. We read it in Romans 16:17: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”* (1) Mark them; point them out for all to see. (2) Avoid them. When error is deliberately

taught we simply mark and avoid those who teach it. This is not the treatment dealt to a young, inexperienced Christian. This is not the way we deal with that which is done in ignorance. This is the treatment dealt to the **Shellys, Copes, Wallings, Marvin Phillips**, et. al. Mark them and avoid them! Expose their errors without mercy. Warn brethren about them. Guard against their false doctrines. God's word tells us these men are dishonest. One look at their doctrine proves God is right because every one of these men teaches doctrines that are self contradictory. They do this without apology. They have rejected truth in which they once walked. They have deliberately chosen to walk in their present course. **Mark them and avoid them!** is the command of God. But, even if we can't see by looking at their doctrines the dishonesty of false teachers, God is still right. His word is right regardless of our experience (Psalm 119:96).

But, bleeding hearts cry, "We must go to them in love and try to win them back." God says **Mark them and avoid them!** Who will be presumptuous enough to command the opposite? Sadly, many preachers and elders are. **Go to them!** men cry. But God says **mark them and avoid them!** False teachers are not included in the command of Matthew 18:15-17 which covers only personal transgression. False teachers are not included in the command of I Thess. 5:14, II Thess. 3:6, and II Thess. 3:14-15 which covers only the disorderly, or unruly, one withdrawn from. In each of the two instances where brethren are withdrawn from another motive might undergird the failure to repent rather than deliberate dishonesty causing them to go astray. But God tells us that dishonest men can't be properly dealt with except they first be **marked and avoided**.

There might be a brief period of exchange before one is discovered to be dishonest. A brief period of giving them the benefit of doubt might be appropriate. But when it is established that their doctrine is false (contradictory to Scripture), and when they refuse to correct their self-contradictions, then action is called for; the action God commands. **Mark them and avoid them.** Again, we emphasize that this is the action against a dishonest teacher; one who rejects evidence to the contrary.

There is no passage in the gospel that teaches us to go to

false teachers before we rebuke their doctrine. There is no passage in the gospel that even hints we must first go to a false teacher before exposing his teaching. There is no passage in the gospel that teaches us to go to those who are marked and try to win them back with soft, compromising attitudes. Love them? Yes! Hate their doctrine? Yes! Expose them? Yes! Avoid them? YES!

It is time we begin to identify those whose affections and sentiments remain with the false teachers long after they have been exposed. Let one of these false teachers be exposed with vigor and some soft headed fellow is always ready to get up and admonish, "**Now brethren, we ought to try to win them back in love.**" My reply is: "Give me God's authority for countermanding God's simple order! These false teachers will take your pearls of love and trample them under their feet while rending you. They are false teachers because **their hearts are dishonest**. Otherwise, in the period when brethren were lovingly dealing with them they would have been won back. But a false teacher is never won back with tears of frustration and fair speech. If they ever come back it is because their doctrine is totally demolished before their eyes and the pain of humiliation and shame is strong enough to bring them to their senses and cause them to renounce the dishonesty of heart that got them there in the first place. One of our failures has been to protect the false teacher (and other deliberate sinners) from the pain of shame and humiliation. We generally choose to continue to fellowship, support, and associate with them long after they are proved to be false teachers. This is either gross ignorance, plain stubbornness, or rank hypocrisy.

Brethren, we have many among us who presume to be wiser than God in dealing with false teachers and other hardened sinners. This writer has had enough of that compromising disposition born either in ignorance of God's word, or else of an unreasonable mind which deliberately rejects contrary evidence. Let all these go ahead and join the false teachers in a literal sense. Their hearts are already there. They do not hesitate to countermand God's orders and

they will not hesitate to deal with us in trickery. In that way they resemble the false teacher with whom their sentiments lie. They can base assertions on their experience but God's word is broader than their experience. The Psalmist said in Psalm 119:96: "I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad." The Psalmist had broad experience but he knew God's word was broader. How desperately we all need to learn that lesson.

False teachers have gone forth from the truth. False teachers have, therefore, gone forth from all those who love, believe, obey, and serve God in truth. Perhaps they still cling to us with their lips but their heart, doctrine, and practices prove their departure. It is imperative we recognize that fact. Otherwise we will never be able to deal with them in the way God commands us.

Let us get back to the word of God both in

word and in deed. Merely giving lip service doesn't honor God; nor does it gender respect among others toward the ones who serve only with their lips. God has stated it simply 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." Let us refuse to be deceived either by the false teacher or those who ignorantly (or deliberately) cry, "We must go to them and try to win them in love." That is a countermand of God's command; that is, a teaching that counters (is opposite) God's teaching.

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5 Gospel preachers in many places claim to believe that there are Christians in all denominations.

6 Many parents allow their children to attend rallies and such where they are exposed to speakers like **Jeff Walling** and others who fellowship the denominations and will not take a scriptural stand on many subjects.

7 Some teach that it is not necessary that one know that he has to understand that baptism is for the remission of sins when he is baptized.

8 Brethren are attending denominational churches like the Willow Creek Community church to learn techniques on how to build the Lord's church.

9 Gospel preachers are telling members and others that observing Christmas and Easter as religious holidays is an individual matter when they should be teaching that one should worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

10 Preachers often hedge, fudge and skirt the issue when asked a simple Bible question showing that they either don't know the Truth, don't respect the Truth or are afraid they might upset someone who really wants to know what the

Bible teaches.

11 Congregations of the Lord's church are taking up an offering on Wednesday nights claiming it is to help the poor people. I wonder why they don't do that on the first day of the week as commanded in I Cor. 16:1-2?

12 Preachers are telling people that they have to be in a right relationship with Christ in order to be saved but will not bother to tell them that we put Christ on by baptism (Ga. 3:26-27).

13 Brethren are having interdenominational services referring to Catholic priests as "father" which is forbidden in Matt. 23:9. Some of our brethren want so desperately to fellowship the denominations.

14 Gospel preachers are joining ministerial associations or such to "work with" people who are working to build up denominational churches and are making havoc of Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17:20-21.

15 Some of our so-called Christian schools invite all manner of false teachers to speak to young people who are sent by their parents to learn the Bible way.

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NEGATIVE PREACHING AND NAME CALLING

Gil Yoder

We frequently hear or read complaints from pew, pulpit and paper that preaching in churches of Christ is too negative. It comes across in many ways. Some say, "Give us the man, not the plan." Others, "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Still others say, "Don't call names lest you offend our religious neighbors." The intent of all this is the same: color your speech with words designed to keep from upsetting those who are in religious error.

There is an *element* (but just an element) of truth in the call for preachers to avoid negative preaching, but overall the appeal is contrary to the spirit and letter of the Word of God. Not only does Scripture permit negative preaching, *it demands it!*

Paul wrote, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6).

This teaches us that it is important *how* we preach, but it implies it is more important *what* we preach. Seasoning can make our food palatable, but a diet made up purely of salt is a diet that will kill. Such is the diet of the "positive thinkers" among us. Remember, Paul also said, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2).

REPROVE, REBUKE AND EXHORT

II Tim. 4:2 tells us we are to "be instant in season, and out of season," which simply means we are to preach the truth whether it is liked or not.

We are to "reprove, rebuke, and exhort." Someone has said that means that our preaching is to be two thirds negative and one third positive. The intention of such a statement is correct, but the math is wrong. **Reprove** means to scold or to correct. Most would classify reproof as negative. **Rebuke** means to criticize sharply. It would also be classified as negative by most. **Exhort** means to urge strongly correct actions, and to give warnings concerning incorrect actions. It has both negative and positive connotations in the minds of many. If Paul meant to indicate the

percentage of "negative" to "positive" preaching by use of these terms, we should conclude that our preaching is to be five sixths negative to one sixth positive.

Negative vs. positive preaching is always in the eye of the beholder. One may feel that a sermon on the plan of salvation is positive, while another may think the same is negative. The first may feel proud that he obeyed the plan in the midst of great difficulty, but the other is upset by the implication that he is lost without obedience. Many times in thirteen years of preaching have we heard commendations and condemnations for single sermons we have preached.

Those who oppose negative preaching should either oppose the Lord's preaching or repent. Matthew 23 contains one of the most negative sermons you have ever heard, and it came from the lips of Jesus Himself. He spoke of the scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites, and pointedly identified their sins.

He called them "blind guides," likened them unto "whited sepulchres." He said they were "serpents" and a "generation of vipers," and assigned them to "the damnation of hell." It would be difficult to be more negative in our preaching either by accident or design, but no one can rightfully accuse the Lord of error or for being unloving. If we had preachers today who would boldly teach as Jesus, we suspect (know) the church would be the better for it.

Paul was one such preacher. Those who object to naming names should object to Paul or repent, because Paul was not opposed to such. In II Timothy 2:17-18 Paul identified Hymenaeus and Philetus as men whose "word will eat as doth a canker...who concerning the truth have erred." This he did for millions to read through the ages of time, most of whom never knew the two men, yet Paul thought it important to identify them.

We are not saying that preaching should be unloving or unkind, but those who object to strong preaching should realize they are seeking to tie the hands of men whose duty it is to deliver the truth to the world. Let us cut the cords and, instead, uphold the hands of men who bravely herald the truth!

We are greatly expanding the coverage of Seek The Old Paths which is currently 4500. We will be publishing monthly beginning in January. We need your help to do this. You may submit names and/or financial assistance. Thanks!

PERSPECTIVE ON BIDDING GOD SPEED

John wrote words of stern warning in 2 John 11: "For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." John was warning about our attitude toward those who advocate error. To offer support, in word or deed, to men who have compromised the Truth is to become their partner. This also includes churches or schools that have compromised and abandoned the faith (Truth).

In light of this passage, many are bidding God speed to those who propagate error. They are, in fact, practicing a form of "Unity in Diversity." I do not have in mind those who are themselves liberals (no less could be expected from them). Tragically, some otherwise good, solid, conservative men and congregations are doing it also! Evidence of this is seen repeatedly in their church bulletins. It amounts to a strange contradiction in which they are tearing down the very thing they are otherwise trying to build up.

This is seen in **borrowed articles that are used.** I am amazed at the carelessness with which bulletin articles of liberal brethren are borrowed and reprinted, and I plead with my sound brethren to use more care. I fully realize that a given article by a false teacher may teach the Truth and no error, and may do it in an effective and forceful way. However, it is nonetheless dangerous and harmful to Truth to use such.

There are at least three damaging results that are obtained when articles by liberal brethren are published by conservative brethren:

- 1) There is an inescapable implied endorsement of them beyond merely his article.
- 2) He is given a platform, notoriety, and credibility that should be denied him.
- 3) Unsuspecting and ignorant readers will be encouraged to listen to him also when he teaches error.

Occasionally a good brother will innocently run such an article, not knowing the real direction of its author. This underscores the need for us all (especially **preachers** and **elders**) to make it a point to keep up with "who" is saying and doing "what." However, this happens in some bulletins with such frequency that it can hardly be mere oversight. It appears that the editor knows said article is by a false teacher, but he will give him a forum anyway!

If this is not bidding God speed to a false teacher I know not what to call it.

**I call upon sound brethren everywhere
not to contribute to the doctrinal
confusion so rampant among the saints
by publishing articles by unsound,
compromising brethren!**

May we all remember that we are known as much by whom/what we commend as by whom/what we condemn.

This is also done **when activities of liberals are publicized in church bulletins.** Occasionally, even careful editors do this due to ignorance of source, sponsors, or implications of an event. Sometimes a liberal brother will even sneak something into a bulletin when the preacher is out of town. However, when such things are consistently seen in the same bulletin it is evident that the editor considers them harmless. It seems also as if some feel obligated to print every announcement they receive, regardless of its source or content.

When a sound church announces (by bulletin or otherwise) activities of congregations that are known for their liberalism (or programs that feature liberal brethren), it is promoting liberalism! It is giving its approval to said activities and brethren. It is encouraging sheep to visit the dens of wolves. Do not these brethren see that at the very best this practice is sending terribly confused signals to the members of the congregation and to all others (including the liberals) on their mailing lists? Sometimes the same bulletin will oppose one error while promoting another. Preacher "A" in a given congregation may take a strong stand on page 1 against the Discipling Movement, while preacher "B" (on page 4) is urging folks (young and old) to participate in a giant "youth rally" sponsored by and featuring liberal brethren.

The liberal brethren expect their cohorts to help them publicize their activities. They must do a lot of laughing behind our backs when they see bulletins of sound churches helping them advance their cause by publicizing (and thereby endorsing) their activities!

We are to "*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness*" (whether moral or doctrinal) and encouraging people to attend the activities of apostates is inescapably a form of fellowship with them. We are commanded to "*even reprove them*" (Eph. 5:11).

—Dub McClish—

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The Current Digression Among Us

Jerry Moffitt

Campbell and others thought the back-to-the-Bible restoration movement would sweep the world. But it was soon cruelly betrayed from within. A new group arose that wanted more than anything the applause and respect of the world. They wanted to strip the church of all that made it distinctive. Those who opposed them were called legalists, radical, narrow-minded, moss-backed, and Pharisaical. They styled themselves, however, as *THE* loving brethren, the progressives. When opposed, the split occurred. It was not so much over the instrument and the missionary society as over an attitude concerning "toeing the line with God," and relaxing posture on denominationalism, morals, and the Bible.

Those who have a bird's-eye view say the same thing is happening today. There is that same progressive attitude toward Bible restraints. The same terminology is used: "legalists," "Pharisees," "mossbacked," and worse. The church as it has been is reproached. Denominational preachers are lauded. Invectives are heaped on those who hold the line. In the turmoil all over the brotherhood, I see a split underway. It is seen in who is asked to be a staff-writer for which papers. There is a realignment of brethren in large cities, with some brethren heading toward congregations known to be more conservative, militant and Bible oriented. Other individual congregations are in turmoil and are experiencing forms of distasteful power struggle.

Though sincerely saddened by the strife, we should not be utterly surprised by it. Paul said: *"I hear that divisions exist among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be manifest among you"* (I Cor. 11:18-19).

Too, though hating division, I still realize God may bring good out of a bad situation. We cannot work in a storm. Amos asked: *"Shall two walk together, except they have agreed"* (Amos 3:3)?

But someone will wonder, "Who will win? Where will the majority go?" I do know this; the majority of people in every crisis usually were in the wrong in the Bible. Take the flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Elijah and the meager 7,000 that

had not bowed their knee to Baal (I Kings 18,19). Jesus said few would find the road to life (Matt. 7:13-14), and he mused over how much faith would be found in the earth when he returned (Luke 18:8).

No, I believe the church will come through this crisis smaller, yet stronger; fewer, but sounder; poorer, yet more spiritual. I believe my children have much for which to look forward.

Big and small, wheat and chaff, let us look at some of the issues.

1. **Inerrancy.** Some wonder if some of Genesis is a myth and whether the Bible may be in error in some details, numbers, and historical facts. This is the battle ground which Southern Baptists are now fighting over, and guess what — it has blown our way too.

2. **Baptism.** Some of our brethren have even started to use tired-worn Baptist arguments against the essentiality of baptism. We can hear from preachers what we refuted from the denominations: "Cornelius was saved before baptism because he received the Spirit

before baptism." Others say you don't have to know baptism is for remission of sins for it to be efficacious and valid. Here they end up accepting all Baptist baptisms as well as others. The truth is, Cornelius received a miraculous measure of the Spirit while he was lost, and before he even heard the gospel message (Acts 11).

3. **Unity.** We now have brethren who say there are good Christians in all denominations, and that we should fellowship them. When we went around last century we heard of the "pious unimmersed." Now we hear of "brethren in prospect" and "becoming Christians," and "Christians in the denominations who have not yet grown to our stature in Christ."

4. **Understanding The Bible.** Lest some would draw the line and say they won't fellowship error, we have brethren who teach we can't really understand the Bible anyway. They all understood the word the same way on Pentecost (Acts 2:36-47), and Paul said we could understand the apostles (2 Cor. 1:13), and Jesus said we could know truth (John 8:31-32). But this does not

**Brethren, we live in turbulent times.
Let's close ranks, brandish the sword,
stand up, and speak out!**

deter false brethren from saying we cannot understand God. Of course, we are supposed to understand the revealed will of God.

5. The Social Emphasis. There are now gymnasiums, swimming pools, and "jogging for Christ." Congregations feel they have to compete with each other on who can offer the most, the biggest, and the best entertainment and social programs. We cannot chastise the Christian Church for their fireplaces, but we can now go to an over-emphasized and unbroken string of social events among the churches. Yet this is all done to the de-emphasis of the Bible and true spirituality. Some have not learned the Martha-Mary lesson (Luke 10:38-42) and would see the church entirely given over to serving tables rather than to prayer and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:2-4).

6. The Holy Spirit. Don't we all know that some brethren in the church today advocate modern miracles, spiritual gifts, and a direct operation of the Spirit? There are those who claim the Holy Spirit works on the individual separate and apart from the word. The restorers, way back, found in the Bible that in conviction, conversion, and sanctification, He only worked through the word.

7. Calvinism. Rather than individual responsibility, conviction of personal sins, and teaching that one is judged by his works (Rom. 2:6; 2 Tim. 4:14), we are now hearing taught "God does it all," "Christ paid it all," "You can't save yourself," and "grace only." I've heard some of my brethren sound a little like the Primitive Baptists we have debated.

Brethren, we live in turbulent times. Let's close ranks, brandish the sword, stand up, and speak out. We may not have the most in number (Matt. 7:13-14), but we are assured of victory (Rev. 17:14). Join the fray. Make sure you are heard from wherever you are. And when the angels carry us out of the battle on our shields amidst the songs of myriads, then we will know it was all worthwhile. We would do it again.

(Continued from page 3, **20 Reasons**)

16 One congregation had a non-Christian to teach their Wednesday night Bible class about the Christian and his responsibility to the government. How in the world can a person in the denominations teach a Christian on how to be a Christian in anything?

17 Some gifted preachers travel far and wide speaking out against liberalism in the church but are quiet as a tomb concerning some of the most liberal churches close to home. They're probably afraid to lose some funding or even their positions. But look what good would be done.

18 Some congregations have choruses, quartets, duets, trios, etc. as part of their worship. When opposed, they claim that it has not been opposed traditionally. The Lord, though, has outlined how we are to include singing as part of our worship.

19 Gospel preachers are teaching that man has no part or contributes nothing to his salvation.

20 Gospel preachers are teaching that there is only one in the Godhead instead of three distinct persons.

If all of our preachers, teachers and college presidents would speak out forcefully on the liberal elements that are invading the church in some places, members of the church would become more interested in saving souls rather than impressing the world with big numbers.

We have already drifted farther than many realize. We can work and pray to do what is right. **MANY CHRISTIANS ARE ALARMED! I HOPE MORE WILL BE!**

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Eighth Annual Seek The Old Paths Lectureship

July 25-29, 1993

Theme:
"Preaching Needed For
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**East Corinth Church of Christ
Corinth, Mississippi**

Twenty Reasons To Be Alarmed

O. B. Porterfield

I am very concerned about the unscriptural and liberal trends that are appearing in the Lord's church.

Members of the Lord's church have long claimed to stay with the Bible. Book, chapter and verse are to be given for all that is taught without addition, subtraction or substitution. We are determined to speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent and have a thus saith the Lord for what we teach. After all, that's what the Bible commands.

HERE ARE SOME ALARMING TRENDS IN THE LORD'S CHURCH TODAY...

1 Some want to, or would agree to, advocate women preaching publicly, serving the Lord's supper, leading the song service, etc, in direct violation of I Tim. 2 and I Cor. 14. Watch out when people talk about taking another look at our position on this subject. The Bible still reads the same.

2 Derogatory statements without any factual basis are being made about the Lord's church. One claims that the more conservative the church, the more incest occurs in families and that 95% of all gospel preachers molest their daughters. Recordings and witnesses often refute denials of making such statements.

3 Some gospel preachers call denominational preachers "father" and "reverend" because that's what they want to be called. That's too bad. Let's do what the Lord says.

4 Some are teaching that one can be saved by "grace only." A commentator on a church of Christ sponsored radio broadcast on Sunday night made this very statement a couple of Sunday nights ago. When I called to verify what I thought I heard by asking, "Do you believe that salvation is by grace only," his answer was, "yes!" My next question was, "Will you debate this subject?" and his answer was, again, "yes!" During the next Sunday's program he answered the same question to another caller by saying that his "words or phrasing were misunderstood." Many who listened didn't misunderstand. Many who listened still don't know what the Bible teaches on the subject.

(Continued on page 3, **20 Reasons**)

WHO WILL PREPARE HIMSELF TO BATTLE?

This issue of **Seek The Old Paths** deals with a very serious problem within the Lord's church today—digression and apostasy. So many have turned away their face and are unwilling to hear about it. However, it is the purpose of **Seek The Old Paths** to call attention to these very things as commanded in Jude 3, 2 Tim. 4:2-5, Titus 1:3, Titus 2:1, and 2 Peter 1:12. It certainly is not a pleasant task to do nor one in which we take any pride or joy. Nonetheless, as those of Nehemiah's day, we will build with one hand and defend with the other (Neh. 4:17) just as every servant of God must do. There are many enemies of the cause of Christ. And, they are not all outside of the church (cf. Phil. 3:18)! Who will help in this most noble cause? Will you?

—gmr—

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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