

The Old Paths

Jeremiah 6:13-17

Introduction

- ▶ Jeremiah's plea was for restoration
 - ▶ Many had left God completely
 - ▶ Jeremiah 2:13 – “they have forsaken me”
 - ▶ Others happily followed corrupt priests
 - ▶ Jeremiah 5:30-31 – “... my people love to have it so”

Introduction

- ▶ Our plea must also be for restoration
 - ▶ We must be able to explain our existence
 - ▶ I Peter 3:15 – “... ready always to give answer ...”
 - ▶ We must not separate from others unless there is a just cause
 - ▶ I Corinthians 1:10 – “... that ye be perfected together in the same mind”
 - ▶ I Corinthians 12:25 – “... no schism in the body”

A Plea For Restoration

- ▶ Not for a new church or denomination but, rather, to restore what God established by the New Testament
- ▶ We must not go beyond Jesus' teachings
 - ▶ I Corinthians 4:6 – “... learn not to go beyond ...”
 - ▶ Galatians 1:6-9 – “so quickly removing”
- ▶ We are made free by His teachings
 - ▶ John 8:31-32 – “... the truth shall make you free”
 - ▶ John 17:17 – “thy word is truth”

A Plea For Restoration

- ▶ Not for a new church or denomination but, rather, to restore what God established by the New Testament
 - ▶ If we do what they did, we will be one with them and with God
 - ▶ I John 1:3-4 – “... have fellowship with us”
 - ▶ There is no need for a “chain of succession” if we have the seed of the Gospel

A Plea For Unity

- ▶ Not for consolidation of denominations or some sort of ecclesiastical organization
- ▶ All believers must be united in fellowship and understanding
- ▶ Jesus prayed for unity
 - ▶ John 17:20-23 – “that they may be one”
- ▶ Paul pled for unity
 - ▶ I Corinthians 1:10 – “... perfected together in the same mind ...”
- ▶ We plea that all who believe in Jesus Christ will be Christians only

A Plea For Unity

- ▶ All of Christ's people are one
 - ▶ Ephesians 4:4-6 – "There is one body"
 - ▶ cf. John 1:12 – "... the right to become children of God"
- ▶ Who, then, is to blame for the division?
 - ▶ I Corinthians 4:6-7 – "... learn not to go beyond ..."
 - ▶ cf. II John 9 – "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ"
- ▶ Jesus is not divided over denominational ideas and practices
 - ▶ I Corinthians 1:10-13 – "Is Christ divided?"

A Plea For Liberty

- ▶ We are to be free from all human authority
- ▶ We will accept and practice all that is taught in God's Word
- ▶ We are responsible to God
 - ▶ John 12:48 – "the word that I spake"
 - ▶ Acts 17:30-31 – "he will judge the world"
 - ▶ Romans 14:10-12 – "... give account of himself to God"
- ▶ We have fallen away from God when we accept the teachings of men
 - ▶ Colossians 2:8 – "... and not after Christ"

A Plea For Loyalty

- ▶ Jesus has all authority
 - ▶ Matthew 28:18-20 – "All authority hath been given unto me ..."
 - ▶ Ephesians 1:22-23 – "... all things in subjection ..."
 - ▶ Colossians 3:17 – "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"
- ▶ We must not shame Him
 - ▶ I Peter 2:11-12 – "... having your behavior seemly ..."
- ▶ We must not be ashamed
 - ▶ I Peter 4:15-16 – "... not be ashamed"

A Plea For Progress

- ▶ We are to continue to grow
 - ▶ II Peter 3:18 – "... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord ..."
- ▶ Don't quit
 - ▶ Hebrews 5:11-12 – "... ye are become dull of hearing"

What God Wants You To Do

Hear the Word of God

- James 1:21 – "... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

Believe the Gospel message about Jesus

- I John 3:23-24 – "that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ"

Repent of your sins

- Acts 3:19 – "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"

What God Wants You To Do

Confess that Jesus is the Son of God

- Romans 10:9-10 – "... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"

Be immersed in water

- Acts 2:38 – "Repent ye, and be baptized"

Remain faithful

- Hebrews 3:12-14 – "if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end"