

# The Old Paths

Volume 10, Issue 22

July 27, 2003

## “A Big Thank You & Some Thoughts”

Jarrod Jacobs

**O**ur gospel meeting with brother Aaron Erhardt concluded on Friday night. As we reflect on the week, I wanted to take a moment and say “thank you” for ....

- ◆ Showing interest in the souls of friends, loved ones, and neighbors and inviting them to the gospel meeting.

- ◆ Showing interest in the gospel by coming and supporting this meeting last week with your presence and prayers to God.

- ◆ The hospitality shown to brother and sister Erhardt, as well as to me and my family this last week. How kind you are!

- ◆ In connection with the above, thank you for filling out the “meal list” in less than ONE WEEK!! There was NO begging, NO reminders offered, or anything of the sort. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, generosity in opening your homes to the Erhardt’s and my family, and for your kindness. This is the way it ought to be.

- ◆ Thank you for being zealous in getting the word out. I am keenly aware of the efforts some brethren have made to give people gospel meeting flyers, and encourage those of the community to come each evening and hear the gospel preached.

- ◆ Our gratitude is extended to those who led our songs all week. You continue to do a great job. (This was another “list” which didn’t take long to fill.) Thank you!

Brethren, I hope this week has made it clear that a gospel meeting requires everyone’s participation if it is to be successful. This meeting was a success because YOU worked at it! Brother Erhardt did his part in preaching the gospel (II Tim. 4:2). He unselfishly and unashamedly proclaimed the whole counsel of God this week (Acts 20:27). Brethren, this is the kind of preaching necessary for standing strong in the Lord and being grounded in the truth. We ought to be thankful to God for His providence in allowing brother Erhardt to be here. Yet, we have to live up to our responsibilities as well. Now that we know the truth, what will we do with it? Will we hoard it up for ourselves, or will we be active in spreading God’s word to others (II Tim. 2:2)? Will we apply the truth we heard to ourselves, or will we ignore it and continue to do as we please? Will we move forward, striving to live ever-closer to our Lord, and to tell others about salvation in Christ and being His child? How wonderful it is to see what can happen when we set our minds to spreading the gospel in this area.

Let’s not stop this work simply because our gospel meeting has ended. May this gospel meeting serve as, among other things, a “jump start” in our spiritual lives. We have opportunities daily to tell others the

truth and lead them to Christ. Let us take the lessons we have learned from brother Erhardt and apply them to our daily lives! Though the meeting has ended, what is stopping us from inviting a friend or neighbor to services this week? Nothing is stopping us but our own fear and/or neglect (Rev. 21:8; Jn. 9:4). Let us get rid of this attitude and resolve today to let others know of the gospel. Let us be like Andrew and Philip, and bring people in contact with the message of Christ while there is still time and opportunity (Jn. 1:40-45).

At times, we have sung the song, “I want to be a soul-winner for Jesus every day...” did we mean it? Do we mean the words we speak when we sing, “Whate’er you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord”? If we do, then let us be busy in fulfilling what we promised the Lord that we would do! Solomon said, *“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few... When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin ...”* (Ecc. 5:2, 4-6). Let us heed these wise words!

The results of this gospel meeting will be felt for some time, for God’s word will not return to Him void (Isa. 55:11). The word has been planted (Lk. 8:11; I Cor. 3:6), and if we will water it, God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:6)! Will this meeting give us renewed strength and zeal to live by the gospel and spread it to others, or will we simply turn a deaf ear to what was said? The choice is yours. Please choose wisely according to the Bible standard!

## God's Changeable Law??

Jarrold Jacobs

**I**n listening to some folks, and observing their actions, we might get the idea that God's law can be changed when it does not suit what we want to do, or how we want to live. For example, a while back, my wife pointed out a piece in the "Dear Abby" column wherein some people wrote to "Abby" (Jeanne Phillips) responding to a woman's letter who stated she was currently living in a "loveless" (second) marriage and did not know what to do. Among those who responded to the woman's letter were two "reverends" (one man and one woman). They both told "Abby" that the woman ought to divorce. They both reasoned that God does not want anyone to be sad; but happy, loved, and in a good marriage. Both encouraged the woman to divorce her second husband, and marry again so that both he and she could be happy.

Of course, such advice blatantly contradicts the words of our Lord. We know God does not allow women and men to marry and dissolve marriages at will. When the Pharisees came asking, "*Is it lawful for man to put away his wife for every cause?*" (Matt. 19:3), simply put, Jesus' response was "No!" (Matt. 19:4-6, 9). Yet, I read (as did millions of others) in "Dear Abby" where two people, supposedly schooled in the Bible, were faced with a similar question as our Lord, and they said, "Yes, go ahead! Divorce husband #2 and look for happiness with #3!" Can you believe it? What has changed in the last 2000 years, God's word or man's attitude toward God's word? We know the answer! These people contradicted the Bi-

ble, there is no question about that.

Sadly, the letters to "Dear Abby" are but one example among millions where people wish to change God's law, or at least suggest that God's will conforms to the whims of men. What is tragic is that this is nothing new. We can find such attitudes apparent in Adam and Eve. God had given them a law to follow (Gen. 2:15-17), but they refused it (Gen. 3:6). After their sin, they were cast out of the Garden, and had to live with the consequences (both spiritual and physical) of their sin from that time forward (Gen. 3:16-19, 23-24). God's law concerning not eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil did not change just because Satan came along (Gen. 2:17)! Their succumbing to Satan's temptation resulted in sin and spiritual death that day!

When David committed sexual immorality with Bathsheba; though chosen by God to be king, he still had to live with the consequences of his sin (II Sam. 12:8-14). God's law (Ex. 20:14) didn't change just because David was "*a man after God's own heart*" and king of Israel! (Acts 13:22)

In the New Testament, we see Judas, who though "*one of the twelve*" (Matt. 26:14, 47; Mk. 14:20, 43; Lk. 22:3, 47; Jn. 6:71), betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15-16). Not long after Christ was taken into custody, Judas was so dis-

traught that he returned his money to the "*chief priests and elders*" and then went out and hanged himself (Matt. 27:3, 5).

Countless other examples from Bible times could be named in this study. There were many who suffered just as much or more than these we have mentioned. Even though God wanted them to be "happy," He was not going to change His will in order to spare them from having to endure the consequences of their decisions they made — right or wrong.

Yes, it is true that God loves us (Jn. 3:16; I Jn. 4:19), and yes He wants the best for His creation; but this does not mean that He will allow men to avoid the consequences of their sins! God's will is given for a reason, and He will also punish those who disobey. Jesus said, "*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent*" (Rev. 3:19).

Let us remember that God's law does not change based merely on such subjective things as:

- 1) A certain amount of time passed.
- 2) Someone questions God's law, or puts a question in your mind.
- 3) "Who" it is that got caught!
- 4) A certain position/occupation one might hold in this life for a time.

Come the Judgment, there are going to be a lot of surprised folks, who will learn too late that God's law they *thought* had changed, has not changed at all!!

"Bible Basics" and "In-Depth Studies"

Found At:

[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

### MEETING TIMES:

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **9:30 am**

**Sunday Morning Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 am**

**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-5200** with your Bible question.

**Preacher/Editor:** Jarrod Jacobs

**Phone:** (270) 683-5386

**Website address:** [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)

"**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.**" (Jer. 6:16)