

# The Old Paths

Volume 10, Issue 45

January 4, 2004

“Happy New Year!”

Jarrod Jacobs

**H** - May our homes be filled with love (Col. 3:19; Titus 4), and may we guide our children in the paths of righteousness in 2004.

**A** - God, through Peter said, “Be ready *always* to give an answer...” (II Pet. 3:15). Let us be “*always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (I Cor. 15:58). We have much to do for the Lord this year; let’s get busy!!

**P** - **Perseverance** is key if we are to finish our race. Paul is a prime example of what it means to **persevere** (Phil. 4:11-13). May we have our eyes on the goal this year (Col. 3:1-3)!

**P** - Face **persecution** the way godly men and women did in Bible days (Heb. 11:32-40). The apostle said that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus “*shall suffer persecution*” (II Tim. 3:12). Jesus said those who would suffer would be called “blessed” (Matt. 5:10-12).

**Y** - To those who can, let us give God the strength of our **youth**. One’s **youth** is the time to: Remember

God, rejoice in the Lord, and serve Him (Ecc. 11:9-12:1). Remember to “*let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example to the believers ...*” (I Tim. 4:12).

**N** - **Nothing** can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39). Throughout this year, when we fall, let us return to the Lord in repentance, and ask Him for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9). He will forgive our sins, because He loves us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven one day.

**E** - Be a righteous **example** before others. Christians have this responsibility, whether young or old (I Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:2-8). Remember, our “works” will follow us (Rev. 14:13).

**W** - **Wisdom** is an attribute we need to acquire at all costs (Prov. 23:23)! It can only be obtained by spending time in God’s word and then actively applying it!! (Wisdom is the *application* of knowledge!) Make 2004 the year that we heed the words of Solomon and “*get wisdom*” (Prov. 4:5, 7-13)!

**A New Year’s “Acrostic” Lesson — 12 lessons for the next 12 months!!**

**Y** - As we think about where we have been, and where we are going, are we still **yearning** to go to Heaven? Let this drive and determination dwell within our hearts. This life is not the “be-all and end-all”! We are strangers and pilgrims in this world (I Pet. 2:9). Therefore, let us **yearn** and actively seek that eternal home - Heaven (Heb. 11:13-16)!

**E** - **Exalt** God and be faithful to Him this year! God wants those ready and willing to worship Him “*in spirit and in truth*” (Jn. 4:24). He wants folks whose faithfulness is seen in their words and deeds whether before men, or when we are alone (Col. 3:17). Let us reverently **exalt** our King, worship Him faithfully, and bring others to Him in 2004!

**A** - A new year brings with it certain responsibilities. Among those which demand our highest priority is to be **active** in the Lord’s service. There is no room in God’s army for lazy folks! He needs **active** soldiers (II Tim. 2:3-4), “workmen” (II Tim. 2:15) who are ready to live for Him every day of this new year!

**R** - The Christian can **rejoice** because his name is written in Heaven! In whatever state we may be, we ought to say as Paul, “*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*” (Phil. 4:4). No, circumstances in the coming year will not always be pleasant; but we can still have joy! This is a result of our relationship with Christ — we belong to Him!!

## Freedom/Slavery

From "Reflections," p. 182  
by: R.L. Whiteside

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31-32).

People who long for freedom usually know little of what it is nor do they know how to obtain it. An illustration or two may help us to see what freedom is. A machine runs free when all parts move as the designer intended. A living thing is free when it moves unhampered in the element, or surroundings, in which God intended it to live. A fish in water, not in a net or otherwise confined, is free; for there is where God intended it to live. Out of its element it is not free. Contrary to speculative theology, man's natural element is righteousness. That is the element in which the Creator intended that he should live and in which he was placed. He is not free anywhere else any more than a fish is free on dry land. By sin man, each man, brings himself into bondage. Adam's sin did not bring you into bondage to sin; you did that yourself. "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the bondservant of sin" (Jn. 8:34). While living in sin, men are under the most servile slavery, from which there is only one way to escape. "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Obedience to the truth is the Lord's way of making us free from the bondage of sin. "If therefore the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." But Jesus forces freedom on no one.

## You ... Must Face The Facts About Attendance

Author Unknown!

### What My Absence Did

1. It made some question the reality of religion.
2. It made many think that I regarded my spiritual welfare and that of others as a matter of small concern.
3. It weakened the effect of church services.
4. It made it harder for the preacher to preach.
5. It discouraged the brethren and therefore robbed them of a blessing.
6. It caused others to stay away from worship services.
7. It made it harder for me to meet the temptations of fleshly lust.
8. It gave the lost more power to stay away.
9. It encouraged the habit of staying away from worship services.
10. It made some think that I was a pretender.

**Editor's Note:** At the beginning of a new year, let us take steps today to improve our attendance in worship!

### What My Presence Did

1. It caused people to have confidence in me.
2. It made people know that I regarded my spiritual welfare and that of others as a matter of great importance.
3. It had a good effect on the services.
4. It made my friends feel more welcome.
5. It encouraged the brethren and helped the preacher in his work.
6. It caused others to come and believe Christ.
7. It made my life stronger for another week.
8. It removed stumbling blocks from the sinners' path.
9. It pleased God and made me feel refreshed in Christ.
10. It caused others to say: "He practices what he preaches."

(From: "How Rearest Thou?" 9/7/03, bulletin of the Peru church of Christ, John Henry, editor)

Past Radio Questions Are Posted 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: 683-9246 (WBIO)** 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!)