

# The Old Paths

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## “After The Meeting - Some Thoughts”

Jarrod Jacobs

**O**ur gospel meeting with brother Joel Plunkett 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 Plunkett, 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 DAY!! There was NO begging, NO “reminders”, or anything of the sort. Thank you for your thoughtfulness, generosity in opening your homes to brother Plunkett 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, led prayers, and took part in some public way during the week. You continue to do a great job.

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 Plunkett did his part in preaching the gospel. His preaching is the kind of preaching necessary for encouraging us to stand strong in the Lord and be grounded in the truth. (II Tim. 4:2). He unselfishly and unashamedly proclaimed the whole counsel of God last week (Acts 20:27). Now, we have to live up to our responsibilities.

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? We must 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. Let us take the lessons we have learned from brother Plunkett and apply them to our daily lives! May this gospel meeting serve,

among other things, as a “jump start” in our spiritual lives. May we see opportunities daily to tell others the truth and lead them to Christ. 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 when we made that declaration? 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”? Words mean things. Therefore, if we are making declarations and promises before God through our songs, we then need to be busy fulfilling what we promised the Lord that we would do! What will we do this week to bring a lost soul to Christ? 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!

### Conclusion

We ought to be thankful to God for

His providence in allowing brother Plunkett to be here. Surely, 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). Let us water it, and let God 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!

## Christian, Remember...

Gordon Skinner, Paoli, IN

.... obedience matters.

Is it me or is the Calvinistic concept of grace finding its way among some of us? Have you ever heard a preacher mention that we're saved only by God's grace? Grace and faith are not synonyms. They originate from different sources, God and man. Perhaps some utilize it like some utilize faith, i.e. meaning the whole scheme of redemption. For those of us who came out of denominationalism, the word "only" attached to anything regarding salvation tends to make us cringe and go on the defensive.

Yet, I tend to see a mentality that almost separates man's need of obedience to obtain God's grace. Paul forever settled this false notion in his letter to Titus when he wrote, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11, 12).

Many denominationalists make the play on words that certain works are commanded by God but are not essential to salvation. Yet, only through their creeds are they able to tell you which works are and which works are not essential for man to be saved. Almost all include faith. Some include other things but these are deemphasized for all practical purposes, save in a few more conservative groups.

The New Testament makes it very clear that we can't obtain salvation without obeying God's will. Men like Max Lucado, Edward Fudge, Rubel Shelly, et. al., have seemingly had an impact on some among us. They emphasize God's grace over man's obligation to God. They argue that since none of us can live perfectly, just do the best you can and God's grace will cover you. Yet, much of what they now teach is as foreign to the N.T. as what their denominational forefathers taught.

Christian, remember obedience matters! "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).

"And he said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for

my sake, the same shall save it." (Lk. 9:23, 24).

"What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? 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 unto you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:15-18).

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14).

How could anyone read such passages as these and a multitude of others and claim obedience isn't essential to salvation? Only with the devil's help (2 Cor. 4:3, 4).

Just as faith without works is dead, (Jas. 2:14, 17, 20, 24, 26) grace without obedience is impossible.

God's wonderful grace is available to all who will obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is available to every erring Christian willing to meet the conditions God has given them for forgiveness. Christian, remember obedience matters. Don't separate it from God's grace. (read: Heb. 5:8, 9).

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**Sunday Morning Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 am**  
**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Our call-in radio program is on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

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*"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)*