

# The Old Paths

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## “Some Thoughts On The Debate”

Jarrold Jacobs

**A**s we know, our debate is drawing closer. I hope that each of our readers will be praying for me as I try to defend the gospel of Christ. Peter said, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” and this is what I am going to do (I Pet. 3:15). Paul said he was “set for the defence of the gospel” (Phil. 1:17), and following in his example (I Cor. 11:1), so am I.

Debating is something that was done in Bible times. Some who debated with those in error include: Elijah (I Kings 18), Jeremiah (Jer. 27-28), Christ (Jn. 8; Matt. 22-23), Paul (Acts 19:9), Stephen (Acts 6-7), and others. If Christ is our example, and if the apostles are our examples and ambassadors for Christ; then can we not speak as they spoke and do as they did? Of course, we can (I Pet. 2:21-22; I Cor. 11:1; II Cor. 5:20; I Pet. 4:11; Phil. 4:8-9)!!

Truly, debating is an effective way of teaching. Why? Because in debating, a person gets to hear both sides of a subject, in contrast to hearing only one side as happens when hearing a preacher preach a sermon. It is not often any more (unfortunately) that people get to hear explanations for why people believe what they

believe and do what they do in light of the Scriptures. Truly, the honest seeker will learn a great deal through this debate.

Debates are a necessity because souls are at stake. With so many who turn away from the Lord, we ought to be more than willing to provide them an opportunity to hear the truth proclaimed. Debates provide people with opportunities to hear the gospel preached in truth and sincerity. What are we doing to get behind this debate? Are we praying for it? Certainly, that should be at the top of our list! “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16).

Debating is a means of waging a spiritual warfare between truth and error. Debating with the enemies of the cross of Christ shows that the truth does not fear honest investigation, nor are we afraid to stand before people and declare what the Bible says without apology. Too many among us are afraid of what men may say, and are content to “stay at home” and not fight against sin and error. May this never be true of us! May we always be the kind of people who demand sound doctrine, and who wish for the truth of God’s word to be spread in every authorized way possible!! “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing

into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” (II Cor. 10:4-6). “Preach the Word!!”

## The Debate Is Upon Us!!

**Brother Jacobs and Mr. Roger Holland Will Be Engaged In A Debate This Week — February 25-26!**

**Subject: “Is Water Baptism Necessary For Salvation From Sin?”**

**Speakers: Jarrold Jacobs (Christian) and Roger Holland (Baptist)**

**Place: We will meet in Millwood, KY, at the Millwood Community Center on Hwy 62.**

**Time: 7:00 p.m. each evening.**

Debates can do much good for spreading the truth. Brethren, please pray for our efforts to spread God’s word in Grayson county.

## “It’s Hard To Obey God”

Pat Jones, via Clarksville (TN)  
Beacon, 11/5/00

**A**DOLESCENCE is a hard time to obey God. Many youthful lusts are presenting themselves to minds which are just beginning to discern good and evil. Immaturity and the “sowing of wild oats” make faithfulness a difficult goal.

**L**A TEENAGE YEARS are a hard time to obey God. Many of the young are soon to face the world on their own for the first time. Their sense of responsibility will already be taxed to the limit with the challenges of college life or new jobs which will present a host of diversions from a course of service to God.

**E**ARLY ADULTHOOD is a hard time to obey God. Marriage becomes a likely prospect for many in this age group and proves to be a relationship demanding much of each partner. Getting established in the business world will steal the time and attention of most. These new requirements of one’s life will hardly make allowing some moments for God an easy task.

**P**ARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN have a hard time obeying God. It is so difficult for a new mother or father with restless little ones to give full attention to a worship service. The feeling of being a distraction to others makes some embarrassed to attend. And, too, the hassle one must go through to get the child who is sleepy,

fussy or messy ready to go to church seems hardly worth the effort.

**M**IDDLE AGE is a hard time to obey God. Quite often both husband and wife are involved in jobs that are tiring. The weekend is about the only time a family has together (after all, the kids will soon be gone). You wish the children were more moral and had more interest in obeying the gospel, but you hate to force religion on them, and your various activities leave so little time to spend worshipping.

**R**ETIREMENT YEARS is a hard time to obey God. For the first time, couples have a chance to do all the camping, fishing or traveling they’ve always wanted to do. They have to go visit the kids and grandchildren. And, naturally, friends and relatives will be coming to visit on the weekends hindering church attendance (after all, you can’t just leave company at home, can you?).

**O**LD AGE is a hard time to obey God. You no longer feel as spry as you once did. You’re sick a lot and becoming tired easier. You’d love to be able to work for the Lord’s cause, but your infirmities make it more difficult.

**T**HEN FINALLY A PERFECT DAY comes to obey God. There you are all dressed up right up front; there’s a crowd come together; and the preacher stands ready to speak from the scripture. There is only one problem - the preacher is there to preach your funeral, the crowd is there to mourn your death, and your body lies in a coffin.

### THE MORAL:

There is never a perfect time to obey God. Never will one see a time when all hindrances are removed - Satan has seen to that. Whether it’s obeying the gospel, living a godly life, teaching others, or assembling with the saints to worship, we will always face certain obstacles. Therefore, we must determine to serve in spite of the hindrances.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:1-2 NKJV)

*Add Our Website To Your “Favorites” List:*  
[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**

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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