

The Old Paths

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“Many Books ...”

Jarrold Jacobs

In the long ago, Solomon said, “*And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh*” (Ecc. 12:12). Solomon’s words ring true today, don’t they? When we think of all the books in existence on this earth, the sheer volume is staggering! If we could calculate all books that have ever been written, surely it would be an amazingly high number. Perhaps one reason why there are so many books in existence is because many books have wrong information in them! Therefore, upon the publication of a book, another book is then written to answer, or correct the error in the first book. Take note of the U.S. Tax Code, and the numerous books associated with just that one subject — these too are books that are “renewed” or changed each year! We might also consider the fact that as man continues to observe and study the world in which he lives, more books are written to document the findings that he had not seen before. Therefore, it is very easy to see how man can write so many books!

In contrast with the “many books” men have written through the years, consider the fact that God has only written 66 books under one cover! Within the Bible, we find the mind of God revealed to man (II Cor. 2:10-13; II Pet. 1:20-21; II Tim. 3:16-17).

This means that within the pages of the Bible are eternal truths which will lead us from earth to Heaven. Jesus said God’s word is truth (Jn. 17:17), and this is still the case! God did not have to issue “revisions” of the Bible every few years, with changes or corrections to the text. It was complete and perfect from the time the ink was put to the scroll! Yes, men have written “many books” over the years, but God did not need to.

Within the pages of one sacred volume, we read of the creation of man (Gen. 1-2), of man sinning, and of the promise of a savior (Gen. 3). Within the Bible, we read of the establishment of a nation that would bring about our Savior (Gen. 12:1-3; Matt. 1; Lk. 3). This volume teaches us about a Savior’s love and sacrifice, and what to do to be saved from the sin that keeps us from a right relationship with God (Isa. 59:1-2; Matt.-Jn.; Acts 2:38). Imagine, God’s wisdom on these subjects, and many other subjects, are revealed to us within one small volume!

The beauty and wisdom of God’s word is again seen when we consider the volume of commentaries men have written in the study of God’s Book! How amazing and even ironic that what God states in a sentence or two in the Bible, men can dissect and write numerous pages concerning that statement(s) and its application. (This irony is not lost on this author! What are bulletins like *The Old Paths* but

teaching tools, wherein God’s word is dissected and taught? Further note that this entire article is based upon only *one verse* of Scripture!)

If God wanted, He could have written volumes and volumes of books for men to study. Yet, in His wisdom He gave us a book that can be read all the way through in a relatively short amount of time (60-70 hours on average). Let us thank God for His wonderful, life-giving, wisdom-producing, volume that teaches us what to do to be saved and prepares us for a home in Heaven.

“It isn’t the amount of money that determines our strength, but rather the use that we make of what we do have.”

- A Quote Found In An Old Notebook I Have

Show Me Calvary

Mike Davis, Bloomington, IN

Several years ago, a gospel preacher whose finances could barely afford him a half-interest in a free lunch gained an invitation to a couple’s home for viewing slides of their recent trip to the “holy land.” He accepted the invitation, receiving treatment as a most honored guest in their home. All enjoyed seeing the sites most can only envision by an eye of faith. Patiently sitting, and occasionally making a Biblical reference to the pictured site, the gospel preacher asked lovingly, “Show me Calvary.” Tears streamed down his face with the utterance of his request. When shown the site, he wept the more, and asked, “Did it so affect you?”

“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)

The preacher long ago left this time-world, but his relating of that story lingers. Of the many times hearing him speak of Christ and His crucifixion, there is no memory of him doing so without weeping. It was not an emoted pretense, but a truthful expression from his soul. He deeply loved the love of Christ and longed for others to captivate that same love and obedience in their souls. He often said, "If there is but one scene permitted by which to prove man's guilt in the very presence of innocence, then show me Calvary. If there is but one act by which to convince man of his need to repent and obey the gospel, then show me Calvary. If there is but one sermon by which I am to learn the righteous conduct of life before God, then show me Calvary" He would then discourse boldly the likeness of our putting sin to death to the cruelty of Christ's death; the likeness of our burial in water for the remission of sins to His burial; the likeness of our rising to walk in newness of life to His resurrection (Rom. 6:3-6). In his conclusion he would utter, "I have shown you Calvary. What have you seen? Do you believe, won't you obey?"

Musing on such sermons and the men who preached them is not merely a "trip down memory lane." Rather, it generates a pondering of our sentiment toward Christ and His loving sacrifice for us (Rom. 5:8-9) and the purchase price of His church (Acts 20:28). How does the contemplation of such reality affect us? Do we muse often enough regarding the gift of His love and the love of His gift? Indeed, dear reader let us frequently examine the site of our salvation's price: let us plead with earnestness, "Show me Calvary." (From: *W. 2nd St. Bulletin*, 2/3/08, Vol. 11, No. 5)

Kids' Kolumn

Jarrod Jacobs

It is fun to have friends (Prov. 18:24). It is great when we get to spend time with people our age and those who have similar interests to us. However, as we grow up, we will see times when our friends make wrong decisions and sin (Rom. 3:23). They might even pressure us to do what they are doing, telling us, "Come on, it's fun." Or, "If you're my friend, you'll do it." When those times come, don't listen to them. God wants us to make the right decisions so we can go to Heaven. Solomon said a long time ago, "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent" (Prov. 1:10, ESV). As hard as it is at times to go against what our friends like to do, we must make sure that our friends do not pressure us to do what is wrong. If they do this, it may be time to get some new friends. Solomon told us, "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). Are we choosing wise friends, or foolish ones? You're not too young to choose good friends who will help you go to Heaven (Ps. 1:1).

God's way is the best way. Remember this as you obey God and your parents this week. (Eph. 6:1-3)

Parents' Paragraphs

Jarrod Jacobs

Matthew 7:12 plays a key role in marriage. Jesus said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." When children see parents treat each other the way they want to be treated, it has an impact upon them. Children learn that marriages are happy when the partners act in a selfless way, rather than self-centered. They see that being kind, and considering others better than yourself results in a happy marriage and happy family life (Eph. 4:32; Phil. 2:3). (Parents who have lived this, have learned it, too!)

Sadly, we often reserve our most hurting words and actions for those we are supposed to love the most. Why is this? While we ought to live peaceably with all men (Rom. 12:17-21), shouldn't this be especially true with the spouse to whom we have pledged our lives?

Ultimately, how spouses treat each other effects the entire family. If parents treat one another as Matthew 7:12 says, the children are taught how to behave when they get married! Don't forget just how powerful your influence is, parents!

Parents, let us learn from the example of Abraham (Gen. 18:19).

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