

# The Old Paths

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## “Volume 15 Begins”

Jarrold Jacobs

**T**he *Old Paths* is a teaching bulletin that started in June of 1994. It is hard for me to believe that we are beginning the 15th year of this publication. Times flies quickly, and this volume is evidence of that truth (Jas. 4:14).

The focus of this bulletin, as well as the focus of all Christians needs to be to stand for the truth, to demand that it be preached unashamedly, and to practice it in our everyday lives. Paul wrote, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”* (Col. 3:17). This attitude is needed today as much as in any other time in history. We’re finding fewer and fewer willing to stand and willing to *“do all in the name of the Lord.”* Therefore, let us *“pray ... the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* in order that we can strengthen our ranks.

This bulletin has been, and will continue to be a teaching tool. It is intended to be a supplement, but not a replacement, to Bible study. Christ said to *“teach all nations ... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”* (Matt. 28:19-20), and the printed page is just one way to teach the gospel of Christ.

God understood the importance of the printed word, for after the Israelites defeated the Amalekites, He told Moses to *“Write this for a memorial in a*

*book”* (Ex. 17:14). Further, *“Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD”* (I Sam. 10:25). God told Isaiah, *“Write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD”* (Isa. 30:8-9). Jeremiah was expected to do the same thing (30:2, 45:1, 51:60). He did so, writing one scroll in particular that is perhaps more well-known for what was done to it than for what it said (ch. 36). Additionally, John was told, *“What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia”* (Rev. 1:11).

Yes, the printed word is a valuable thing. We know this because:

1) Daniel read the words of Jeremiah and understood that Judah’s time of oppression would last for only 70 years (Dan. 9:1-2).

2) Timothy was instructed to *“give attendance to reading”* (I Tim. 4:13). Further, he knew *“the holy scriptures ... are able to make thee wise unto salvation”* (II Tim. 3:15).

3) We find the noble Bereans who, *“sought the scriptures daily whether those things were so”* (Acts 17:11).

The printed page allows one to read and reread what is taught at one’s own speed. One can grasp what is being said, and be able to apply it as needed. This author makes no claim to infallibility, and I certainly have a lot to learn, but I fully intend to always hold the Bible

forth as our only standard of faith and practice. You and I may be wrong about things, but God and the Bible are always right!

In the past, we have printed articles, letters, debate reports, and other things for the purpose of exposing all to the truth in contrast with the error that runs rampant these days. Lord willing, we will continue in this policy, exposing error, and those teaching the error, that all may *“hear and fear.”*

I am thankful to God for the opportunity to continue this teaching bulletin for this long; and hope that I can continue to write and teach people through this medium for years to come. Please pray for this work that we may continue to use the printed page as a medium to bring lost souls to Christ before it is too late. Paul said, *“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (II Cor. 6:2). May we feel the urgency to bring lost souls to Christ and do what is right ourselves, that we might be found pleasing in the sight of God and one day hear the words: *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy lord”* (Matt. 25:21).

## “Don’t Pressure Me!”

Jarrold Jacobs

**S**ometimes when we talk with people about the Bible, we meet folks who say, “Don’t pressure me.” I have heard those teaching the Bible say, “This is not to pressure you, but ...”. It is certainly not anyone’s intention to coerce a person into obeying the Lord. It certainly does no spiritual good to try and “pressure” them into doing something that they do not wish to do.

Yet, there is something to be said for pressure being applied in the right way.

We know physically that pressure is a warning that some part of the body is in stress or trauma. This is something given to us by God to protect us from further harm. (Ex: The boy felt great pressure in his hand, so he pulled it from the vise. Or, the girl experienced great pressure after her arm was broken.) In other words, pressure can be a good thing when applied correctly. One who feels pressure physically will usually take measures to prevent further harm to the body if this is possible.

Spiritually, it is no different. If someone wishes to speak to you about the Bible, and you feel "pressure," perhaps it is because you're in the wrong! Instead of fighting against this, why not take steps to get yourself out of spiritual jeopardy (i.e., repent), and prevent further spiritual damage by returning to the Lord now while you can. (II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8)

## Your Length Of Service

Selected

**M**an serves only one generation, that in which he lives, and then dies. It may be that his influence continues to be felt for generations to come, and that he may leave works that either bless or curse humanity for generations, but he serves only one generation. This very principle stirs every Christian to give his best to the generation in which he lives.

## "Have a Nice Weekend"

Leslie Diestelkamp (1911-1995)

**E**ach Monday lately our new bread delivery man has said as he left, "Have a nice weekend." Naturally, we are amused and perplexed. I have concluded that he was trained late in a week by one who left his customer saying, "Have a nice weekend." This new man just is not aware that such a greeting is only suited to the last of the week, and so he uses it all the time.

Many people are like that in religious matters. They read that Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "*Thy kingdom come,*" and so they go right on doing the very same thing more than 1900 years after the prayer was answered.

Some read that God commanded the Jews to keep the Sabbath holy, so they try to do the same today, even though they are not Jews and also long after the Sabbath was "nailed to the cross" (Col. 2:14).

Jesus told His apostles to "*tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high*" (Lk.

24:49). Many today are still expecting to receive that miraculous power long, long after Christ's promise was kept (see Ac. 2:1-4).

The fact is, late in the week it may be o.k. to say, "Have a nice weekend," but this is hardly the expression suited to Monday mornings. Likewise, it once was right for men to keep the Sabbath holy, but with Christ's death God repealed that law (Heb. 8:13). It was once right to pray for the coming kingdom, but when the kingdom came (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9) we should know enough to quit asking for it.

Immediately after the ascension of Jesus, it was correct for the apostles to expect the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Jesus had indeed promised (Jn. 14:26; 16:13), but since the Holy Spirit came and fully revealed the gospel (Gal. 1:11; 1 Cor. 3:13; Rom. 1:16-17), we cannot expect this to be repeated in each generation because there is no more truth to reveal to us (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3).

(Article written in 1965, West Side Bulletin, Aurora, IL)

*"Everyone does it" does not justify your behavior. This excuse simply means you're as wrong as everyone else!*

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