

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: Ralph Burleson

On the Table: Head - Charles Berryhill
Servers - Josh Berryhill
Gary Addison
Greg Lowery

Closing Prayer: Leonard Key

Preparing the Lord's Supper Vertie Mae York

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study	10:00 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
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Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key
Billy Box / Eddie Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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“MY”



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



The Old Paths

By Leslie G. Thomas

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. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. (Jeremiah 6:16-17)

The imagery of the text is that of travelers who are on their way to a certain destination, but who have either lost their way, or have reached the place where the road forks and where a decision must be made before any further progress can be achieved. It was at such a time as this, or amid such confusion, that someone saw their plight and suggested to them what they should do. But it sometimes happens that people who are in need of this kind of advice are not willing to accept it.

The lesson before us today is, of course, a moral one, and has to do with travelers on the way of life who are confused, or who do not know which road to take. Jehovah is always willing and ready to direct people into the right way, but not everyone is willing to heed his instruction. The contrast between man's lost and hopeless condition, and God's love and mercy toward him, is to be found on almost every page of the Bible. The Lord does not want anyone to be lost, and he has made ample provision for the salvation of all men. (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9; Heb. 2:9)

The plural "paths" does not imply that there are many ways to heaven, for it is in these paths that the "good way" is to be found. The *old paths* are those in which God's people have always walked, such as faith, love, and obedience. Another Old Testament prophet stated the matter in this way: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). But in studying the lesson now before us, let us consider it under the following headings:

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Danny Berryhill: having trouble with his lungs, please pray that he can receive help with this problem

Mary Rainey: she has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Maylene McWhirter: her blood gases are showing signs of myeloid leukemia, please be praying for her and her family

Jack Waldon: {Linda's Brother-In-Law} he is under hospice care, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Billy Lee: {Carolyn's Brother} diagnosed with renal failure, please keep him in your prayers

Connie Autrey: recent scans show that the cancer is shrinking, please continue to pray that the treatments will continue to work in defeating her cancer

Doug Roberts: is in the nursing home in Hamilton recovering from a recent stroke, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Sue Berryhill: had a cancerous spot removed from her hip, let us pray that the surgeon was able to remove all the cancer, she will get another report in a few days.

Bobby Sanderson: is in rehab at the nursing home in Winfield and he is improving, please pray that improvement continues and that he will have a complete recovery.

Arthur Ewing: has lung cancer, please pray that he will be able to receive treatment that can help him

Robeana Green: has been diagnosed with cancer, please be praying that with treatments that this cancer can be defeated

Purpose And Giving

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give” (II Corinthians 9:7). There is perhaps no area of Christian living where our will power is any weaker than in giving. Think what would happen to our contribution if every member of the church “made up his mind” to give, and then gave what they should.

Camp, Franklin, *Old Truths In Ne Robes*, (Birmingham, AL, Roberts & Son Publication, 1972),p. 11-13.

Upcoming Events

Today	Country Place	2:00 pm
August 12 th	Nursing Home	2:00 pm
August 19 th	Fellowship Meal	
August 19 th	Bible Bowl {Carbon Hill}	2:00 pm

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Angie Ganey Gardner: she has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Deborah Pollard: is currently taking cancer treatments, please pray that these treatments will be successful in defeating her cancer

The Divine Admonition

“*Stand ye in the ways and see*”: The term “stand” implies that the travelers were to *stop* in the midst of the ways they were traversing, while “see” indicates that they were to take into consideration the condition in which they were at the time the message was spoken to them. No one is prepared to accept the mercy of God who does not realize his lost and undone condition. (Cf. Acts 2:14-37)

“*And ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein*”: Notwithstanding man’s lost and helpless condition, he still has a responsibility in the sight of God. (1) He must ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and (2) he must walk therein.

To ask for the old paths is to show a willingness and a determination to please God. Such an attitude has always been true of people who realize their lost state, and who want to please God. (Cf. Acts 22:10) To walk in the good way means complete obedience to the gospel plan of salvation, for it is only in the gospel that the good way is to be found. (See Rom. 1:16-17; Acts 2:38-42)

The Promised Reward

“*And ye shall find rest for your souls*”: This has always been the Lord’s gracious promise to those who love and serve Him; and no one can read this promise without thinking of a similar one made by Jesus. (See Matt. 11:28-30)

The rest which is promised to those who walk in the *good way* is no mere outward repose. It is rest of the heart, or, which is the same thing, the mind, the affections, the will, and the conscience. How great is the difference between the *memory* of the past and the *power* of the present, when people do as God directs. (Cf. 1 Tim. 1:15-16; 2 Tim. 1:12; 4:6-8)

The promises of God fill a large part of the Bible, and not one of them has ever been broken, if its fulfillment depended upon Him! (Cf. 2 Cor. 1:20) The promises of God have power to move men (1) according to the value they place upon the things promised; and (2) according to the faith they have in Him who made the promises.

The Response Of The Lost

“*But they said, We will not walk therein*”: How often has that spirit been manifested by people who needed the Lord’s guidance! (Cf. Luke 7:29-30; Rom. 10:1-3)

But God is not willing to stop with man’s refusal to walk in the good way. “*Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet*”. God is not willing to give up anyone, as long as there is any possible hope of saving him. (Cf. Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; Ezek. 33:1-9) “*But they said, We will not hearken*”.

Moffat’s translation of the text now under consideration is very suggestive: “Stand at the cross-roads, the Eternal said, and look for the old path, ask for the good road and take it, so shall you be safe and prosper. But they said, We will not take it. I posted sentinels for them, I bade them listen to the trumpet-blast; they said, We will not listen”. This is a graphic picture of sinful and stubborn men’s reaction to the love, sacrifice, and mercy of God. (Cf. Hosea 11:8)

Thomas, Leslie G., *Sermons and Addresses*, (Austin, TX., Firm Foundation Publishing House, 1966), p. 91-93.

The Power of Purpose – “I am purposed” (Psalms 17:3)

By Franklin Camp

We often fail to exercise the will. We are proud to possess the power of self-determination, and vehemently contend for the fact of free will; yet, in actual life, we are content to drift. Rarely do we really exercise our will power in the right direction. Someone has said, “What passes for a will is usually a chaotic lot of indecisions. Indeed, nothing is more helpless than the will power of a large part of human beings”. Marked improvement would soon be manifest in all spheres if men habitually cultivated the will and put more force into their resolves, but unfortunately we are content to see dimly, feel faintly, decide weakly, and life becomes a series of ineffectual struggles in which it is often hard to distinguish success from failure. This is especially true in regard to our moral and spiritual life. James Smetham made the following statement which is to the point: “A thought that has been in my mind lately is that it is possible, by direct intention, to improve – a simple thought, but a very influential one when entertained with the heart. The vague purposeless feeling one sometimes has originates

in the want of faith in the truth I have named. We look on change for the better as something which will come to us some day in a burst, lighting all up with a new brilliancy, and sending all forward with new impetus and strength. No, it won’t. I confess that I have been too superstitious in this matter and have forgotten that improvement is a thing of growth – gradual, silent, steady, and the offspring of direct, continuous effort, and will”. Too many drift idly through life waiting for something to happen rather than applying their wills. Hell will be filled with people who waited for something to happen. Heaven will be populated with people who purposed to go there. The church is full of people that are waiting for something to happen. There are but few in the church that have purposed to see things do happen.

A Half Mind

In practical life a definite and tenacious will counts for much. We sometimes say, “I have a half mind to do it”. What a curious thing is half a mind! Where are the great pictures it has painted, the books it has written, the houses it has built? Where are the mountains it has scaled, the battles it has won, the continents it has discovered? What is done with half a mind, no one cares to see. Its sickly efforts are soon forgotten. But when we make up our minds, determine once and for all to take a stand and put our heart into a thing, the biggest part of the battle has already been won.

Purpose To Bridle The Tongue

“I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress” (Psalm 17:3). Thus resolving, we master the tongue and put a bridle on our lips. We often transgress with our mouth because we have not definitely determined to control it.

“He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord” (Psalm 112:7). We are afraid of evil tidings and lack courage because our faith is not made steadfast by a determined will.

Purpose And Purity

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank” (Daniel 1:8). The purpose of heart that defies kings will maintain a purity that is invincible. A determined will can help young people avoid the pitfalls of life. It will enable parents to stand against the popular appeal that “everybody is doing it”.