



“The Ancient Paths”

“While we remain true to the principles on which we started out, there is no earthly power that can impede our progress. But the day we leave these walls and go out to take counsel with the world, will mark the day of our decline. We have nothing to fear from without. Our only danger lies in the direction of indifference and compromise. While we are true to God in the maintenance of these principles, the divine blessing will be upon our work. But should they ever be surrendered, ruin will certainly follow as that the Bible is true.”

The preceding quote is from F.G. Allen. It can be found in the January 23 edition of the *Gospel Advocate*, 1896. At the time that paper was the strongest proponent of New Testament Christianity to be found in the country. Sadly, times have changed.

However, the words of F.G. Allen prove as true today as they did when he first penned them. *“Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”* Jeremiah 6:16

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In the early to late 1800’s congregations of the Lord’s church were springing up like wild fire throughout this country. The plea was simple: Let’s go back to the New Testament and stand upon it alone. Let’s refuse to speak where it does not, but refuse to remain silent where it does. That biblical plea had been largely abandoned and when it was rediscovered it truly turned this country upside down (Acts 17:6).

Armed only with truth and a burning desire to see it defended, poorly educated Christians ventured forth like whirlwinds to cast down and destroy the arguments of men of high educational attainment (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Their opponents and detractors cried out, “How is this possible? They’ve not been to the Universities or Seminaries!” No, but they *had* sat at the feet of the Master Teacher and before long all their opponents recognized *“that they had been with Jesus”* (Acts 4:13b).

Sadly, many of the congregations that came into existence then began to cast longing looks at the world around them. Truth alone was no longer good enough. *Respectability* in the world and among its denominations became the order of the day. The distinctive plea was surrendered as they became like all the nations (1 Samuel 8:6).

You and I must cling to that plea as a drowning man clings to driftwood, for in that direction salvation lies. *



There’s a lesson here.

“...reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

Gospel preachers have a grave responsibility to reprove, rebuke, and exhort. These directives have the potential for doing more harm than good if not done with complete patience and teaching. This patience is a long-suffering patience indicating that reproof, rebuke, and exhortation not be the result of some spur-of-the-moment, knee-jerk reaction. Gospel preachers are not the only ones who are instructed to give reproof, rebuke, and exhortation. Any Christian might have occasion to so interact with any other Christian. Surely there is a lesson here in how to give reproof, rebuke, and exhortation: “reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching.

Yet reproof, rebuke, and exhortation are often not well received, even when given with complete patience and teaching. People are quick to become defensive, getting angry and striking back at the one rebuking them. The more they are rebuked the angrier they become. We need to be aware of the great danger in continually >

failing to heed rebuke and reproof. The danger is that one will eventually reach a point at which he is beyond the willingness to give any credence to the validity of the rebuke. Proverbs 29:1 states the condition in this way: *“He who is often reprovved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.”*

There’s a lesson here regarding the importance of giving heed to reproof, rebuke, and exhortation which is given with complete patience and teaching. *

--The Elders

A word concerning our elders

Though serving in the capacity for a very short time, the elders have already been hard at work feeding and shepherding this flock (1 Peter 5:1-3). They meet formally twice a month and one can see them with their heads together at most services. We are very fortunate to be led by men who themselves are happy to be led by Holy Scripture. Clearly they understand the significance and importance of their duty. Let us support, encourage, and pray for them.

In need of prayers

Ethan Daniels is adjusting to life on earth. Adam and Jenilee are adjusting to life with Ethan!

Charlene Antle goes to the oncologist June 30 to determine the form of chemo to be >

pursued in her treatments.

Lala Whitson is suffering severe intestinal problems. She is only 11 months old and is the daughter of former members here at UHeights.

In need of regular prayers

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Janice Parsons, Glenn Davis, Glenn Kimberlin, Jackie Litmer

Others: Keia Burton, Edith Tirey, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Linda Hill, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Wes Kidd, Gail Stein

Weekly Reading

Su	2 Sam 10-11, Ps 119:137-144, Col 1-2
M	2 Sam 12-13, Ps 119:145-152, Col 3-4
T	2 Sam 14-15, Ps 119:153-160, 1 Thes 1-2
W	2 Sam 16-17, Ps 119:161-168, 1 Thes 3-5
Th	2 Sam 18-19, Ps 119:169-176, 2 Thes 1
F	2 Sam 20-21, Ps 120, 2 Thes 2-3
Sa	2 Sam 22, Ps 121, 1 Tim 1-3

Come join us this week (June 26-July 1) for our Gospel Meeting with Greg Litmer of Florence, Kentucky. If you’re able, come take advantage of morning classes Monday through Friday as Brother Litmer leads us in an examination of the letter to the Hebrews. There will be morning classes for children, too! We will also meet at 7:30 each evening. You’re invited!

Normal times of worship

Sunday AM

Bible study 9:45

Worship service 10:45

Sunday PM

Worship service 6

Wednesday PM

Bible study and worship 7:30

Gospel plan of salvation: Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), Believe Jesus Christ (John 3:16), Repent of sin (Luke 13:3), Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9), Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), Live worthy of a Christian (Ephesians 4:1)