

Old Paths For A New Year **by Dr. J.B. Buffington**

This message was preached by Dr. Buffington in January of 1986.

Turn to Jeremiah chapter six, page 779 in an old Scofield. Let's begin reading now verse thirteen through verse nineteen. I'm going to back up and read the last verse of chapter five, that's verse 31 and then over to 6:13-19. Jeremiah 5:31: *The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?* Now chapter six, verse 13: *For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. 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, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.* Now, verse sixteen, "Old Paths for a New Year," and our main text, verse sixteen: *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.*

Let's pray. Our Father, I need the heart, the ears of every person present if they're to be benefitted. Blessed Holy Spirit, would you be with their hearts and minds and may we today analyze and be reasonable as we look at where we are and where we're going. O God, our heart yearns to help folks, and I pray this morning that folks will be helped, lives will be salvaged from wreckage, ruin, and destruction. In Jesus' name, Amen. Old Paths For A New Year. Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet. You hear him cry in the ninth chapter: *Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!* When the Lord Jesus asks the disciples: *Whom do men say that I am?*, some of them said, "Well, you're like Jeremiah; you cry over people." Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!* And in that respect, Jesus and Jeremiah were the same. They wept over a heedless people headed for ruin and destruction, but they wouldn't listen. No wonder they wept. In the book of Jeremiah, most of Judah had gone into captivity. Some were left. Jeremiah warned and exhorted. They had forsaken the Lord. In the second chapter verse ten he talked about their sin was unparalleled. He said: *For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing. 11 Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.* Can you imagine the land of venue with its idols swapping gods. They don't do that. America did. America has. *12 Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. 13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.* Who would swap a fountain for a cistern, and especially a cistern that depends upon nature to keep it full but a fountain that's always full and fresh and the cistern with a hole in the bottom and never held any water. God said, when you forsook me that's what you did. That was illogical. It was unparallel. And then he says: *32 Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.* That's illogical. Their sin was unparallel. And then in the seventh chapter, they were unresponsive. God said: *Obey my voice, and I will be your God, . . . But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:* They were irresponsible. Now, with that in the background, look at verse sixteen of the sixth chapter. And here is a call to observe. Let's just look at it. *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the*

ways, Now, he said to go down to the city where the highways come into the city and they go out of the city. Go down there and stand, and you see the markers, you know, Chicago so many miles, New York, so many miles, and San Francisco so many miles; and it tells the mileage and it tells the direction. I've never see anybody stand before the corner of where the roads part and the markers are there and say, "Well, I don't believe that road leads there." I believe I'll take the sign that says go that way. Now, I know folks sometimes tamper with signs. But, God says, now you take time to stop and pause. Take time for thoughtful deliberation. God's a reasonable God. He said, *Come now let us reason together*. Serving God is reasonable. Serving sin is unreasonable. God said, "Call a halt. Pull over to the side and stand in the concourse. As you see the roads leading out of the city, take time to meditate; take time to think where you're going. You don't go on a trip just haphazard. Where are you going? Take time; think. Go to where they all come in and converge and consider each road and consider where you're going. Then, he said, *stand in the ways*. That's station yourself at the crossroads, if you please. And young people, there are crossroads, and we face crossroads every day in our lives. Man, there are folks on the right road, and boy, the next day you may be on a crossroad and you take the wrong road. And, my, it will cost you. And so what more we better be careful about coming to where the roads part to think. He said, *Stand ye in the ways, and see...* Consider your destination. Use your eyes. Read the signs. This sign says it here. The map says it goes there. Now, it won't do you any good to argue with a map because, now hey, this doesn't go there. The map says it goes there. The sign says it goes there. No, no, I believe this will lead to Heaven. I believe this will lead to happiness when the sign says, "No, no, no!" And God said, "Hey, use your brain. Stop. Stand still. Consider. Think and watch and observe. Don't do something hastily." And so that's the petition.

Then, secondly, a petition to grant. *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...* Inquire. I don't like it. If I am not sure, I'm gonna ask somebody, and I'm going to ask somebody until I find somebody I think knows what they're talking about. Man, I've driven with people, and they wouldn't ask anything. I mean, here you're new, just drive, drive, drive. Hey, wouldn't it be a whole lot simpler if somebody here somebody knows who, then just take time -- ask? Did you know God delights to answer *..ask for the old paths...* ? Hey, God, which road leads to happiness? Hey, God, which road leads to spiritual success? Hey, God, which road leads to Heaven? Ask! Do you know what would be the thrill of a parent, parents who've lived ahead of you, young people, and they're older than you, and you understand that. And, they're smarter than you; now, you don't think they are, but they're smarter than you. And they've got stored up in their minds volumes of wealth and information they could share with you, but you won't ask. And a parent grieves to share; but it's not asked and because it's not asked, you don't get it. It's hard to give people information that they want. Sometimes, somebody will get on the phone and say, "Now, so-and-so is having problems down with their home life. Would you go over there?" I say, "No, I'm not going over there. They haven't asked me to come." I find out a long time ago: I can't straighten out people and help people unless they want me to help them. If they don't want me to help them, then I'm intruding. I just cloud the issue, and so I wait for them to call. *Ask for the old paths!* Inquire. And when you're facing the future, young people and older folks alike, it's time to stop and look where you are going. You're going somewhere, the road that you are on this morning ; and it's clearly marked where you are going, if you'll take time and read the signs. You can't believe what people say about, you know, the crowds. The Bible says in Matthew 7:13 *...broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:* You can't decide by what it looks like. It looks good, and I like the looks of it. Well, this is a four-lane highway, and this road over here is just a --man, it's shambles. I don't want to travel that road. Hey, you can travel the four-lane highway to Hell if you want to, but it won't lead to Heaven. All you're wanting to do and enjoying the scenery on the way will not take you to Heaven. And, there's only one road to Heaven, and there's only one road to happiness: and, that's obedience. And disobedience always leads to misery and unhappiness. *Stand in the old ways and ask!* Ask! What do you think about this manner of asking? *Ask, and it shall be given you.* Why? Ask the question: "Where does this road lead?" Do you know where that road that you're on today leads? Oh, you say, "I don't even know." Well, it's just about time you stop and ask where it led. And, I can take the Bible and identify every road that every person under the sound of my voice is on today. And I can tell you according to the Bible where that road leads. And if you think it leads to happiness, and God said it doesn't

lead to happiness, you can expect unhappiness down the road. And, hey, God's Word is true. It's a map for all generations. It's marked out clearly if you'll just take time to call a halt and ask. Where does this road lead? And, a lot of people don't ask because they're in a hurry. I've ridden with people, man alive, and I've got the map in my hand and they are in a hurry, you know, got to make good time. And they say, "Oh no, I can't look. Well, I think this is ours." And way down the road, it cost you about twenty miles; you had to do all the backtracking. It wouldn't have cost you half as much time if you pulled over to the side of the road so you could make sure the map and the thing agree. Hey, now, I'm in a hurry; I don't have to time. I don't have time to think. Hey, you're in too big a hurry. You better stop because down the road, you are going to take time to think. And the devil will keep some of you so busy, busy, busy, busy ... I don't have time. I'm in a hurry. I just have to move on and keep moving, keep moving. Why? Because I don't have time. You are going to have time to think in eternity whether you were on the right road or not.

Others do not take time to think or ask a question because of the fact they'll hear somebody laugh at them. There are questions in every Sunday school class that some member would delight to ask: I wish I knew the answer. And the teacher says, "Any questions?" And they sit there and they look at you, and you know there are questions; you know everybody hasn't gotten it, but they will not ask questions. Why? "I'm afraid somebody will laugh at me." Well, you forget what people have to say or do. If you need information, ask. Let them laugh. You'll be right. And only an idiot will laugh at people for asking questions. Smart people don't laugh. And I wouldn't mind idiots laughing at me. But smart people became smart by listening and by asking questions. Know who to go to for information.

And then others don't ask because of ego. Pride. Young people, could I talk to you a little bit? I'm talking to everybody this morning. But, one of the problems of growing from an adolescent to adulthood is the fact that you just won't ask. "Well, I'm trying to establish my own identity." Establish your identity of being wise by asking. Say, "Why, I can't figure it out." You can't figure it out. Why figure it out when somebody has been ahead of you, and those who have gone ahead of you are trying to make it easy on you -- ask! An ego problem. And you see people all around. And, I'm going to ask. I was in Switzerland, and the waitress was there, and I wanted to order something to eat. She couldn't speak English. I couldn't read French. And I tried to tell her. And a fellow passed by. I said, "Do you speak English?" right out in the restaurant. I didn't care if everybody laughed. I wanted to eat a meal. I wanted to know what was coming before I got it. Then he came over and what it was. Then I pointed to this, and he said, "Animal, animal." Well, I figured it was an animal, ya know. "Forest, forest, animal, forest," and then he put his finger right there, "Venison!" "Yeah, venison," and I knew that I had venison on the way. People laughed. I don't care about 'em laughing. I want to know, and hey, if you want to know something, brother, you just ask, and let 'em laugh. I found out beforehand what I was going to eat. So you ask questions. "Well, that would embarrass me." Doesn't embarrass me, if I want to know something, "Hey, where's the bathroom?" Did you ever do that? I'd rather them be embarrassed than me be embarrassed. Make sure you ask. Hey, ask Jesus. Scripture said, Whom do I ask? I'd ask somebody that's been there before; and young people, your crowd hasn't been there before. Don't ask 'em. Say, we're discussing this among ourselves. You're wasting your time. They haven't been there. Ask somebody that's been there. And, oh, I know you know what you think it is, but it's not what you think it is. You ask somebody that's been there. I went to the hospital yesterday, and a lady asked me, and I didn't know the lady, and she said, "Do you know anybody that has a broken femur?" That's a bone. Well, why did she want to know? She wanted to know somebody, and she was discouraged, and she wanted to know somebody who'd been where she'd been, and she wanted to ask them about this thing. And I couldn't, I said, "I'm sorry. I did a lot of visiting, but I don't remember anybody." You ask somebody that's been there, somebody that's gone before, and you wasting your time, talking among yourselves what life's about. Boy listen, and somebody's been there, and mom and dad's been there, ask them. I'm your pastor, and did you know God puts a pastor through a whole lot of stuff just to share with you. And I see folks, man I see you blow it, and you blow it, and blow it, and blow it. I know you blow it; I see you blowing it, and I don't reach up and grab you by the neck and say, "You're blowin' it." No. You're not interested; you just go ahead and blow it, and you wouldn't have to blow it if you'd ask. Ask. Ask. A young man came to my office. He asked me about school. He asked me about dating. He asked me about how to study. He asked me about the dangers of dating. He

asked me about studying. He asked me a whole lot of things about school, about priorities, about both. He didn't ask his peers. They were in the same boat as he was in. He wanted to know somebody that'd been to school, and somewhere he'd heard that I'd been to school, and he asked. Oh, what a thrill. I wanted to say, "Here, here, here." And he said, "I just didn't want to make any mistakes. I just didn't want to blow it, and I wanted to ask. And do you know how that made me feel? Bless God, here's somebody that wants to know something, and hey it thrilled me not to show how smart I was, but it thrilled me to find the humility enough in somebody to ask questions. Ask. Boy, you'll face in 1986 what lies out there. I don't know what lies out there, but God knows, and He outlines the roadmaps very clearly. There's wisdom in asking. Look at Proverbs. Do you know how you become wise? Ask questions. You know these little toddlers, you answer their question, and they say, "Why?," and you answer that, and they say, "Why?," and you answer that, and why, and why, and why, and why is it? Man, if you could go the rest of your life asking questions like little toddlers do, you'd be smart; but when we get to be juniors or moving into high school, we discover, that, "Hey we've already got the answers." You don't have half the answers. You go off to college; about the second year, you'll realize how dumb you are. And the older you get, the dumber you get. And that's not senility; it's because of the fact you understand there's so more branches of knowledge and experience, and you don't have all the answers, but God has 'em. Proverbs 1:5. I know I need wisdom to get off of this point, to move on. *A wise man will hear and will increase learning and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsel.* How does a man or a woman become a counselor? They become a counselor by listening and asking questions, and when you listen and ask questions, you learn. And as you learn, then you're able to help somebody else because of the fact humility allowed you to ask questions.

Consider number 3, a path to follow. Back to the book of Jeremiah 6. A petition to grant, a path to follow, and God said: *Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.* There's a path, the old path, the ancient, the old path. Now, watch now. I do not worship the antique. Because it's old does not mean it's right. Sin's old. Cain's way is still prevalent today, and it's older than Able because Cain was older than Able; and Cain went to hell and Able went to heaven. And hey, listen, just because it's old doesn't make it right. He said, *ask for the old paths*, the good, old paths, not just old, but the good, old paths. Now, I don't worship antiques. Now, a lot of folks keep antiques. They don't mean anything. I'd rather have something new. I'd rather have something new. Now, I'm not criticizing you. Man, these memories. I got a brother, man I mean old things. No sir, I'd far rather have something new than something old when it comes to that respect, but I'm not talking about preferences and tastes. I'm talking about principles today. It doesn't make any difference to me whether you drive to Chicago in a Cadillac or on a bicycle, ride on a bicycle. The thing is, you're on the road to Chicago, and you may be in a Cadillac today on the road to Mexico, thinking you're going to Chicago, but thinking will not put you on the road to Chicago. You have to get on the road that leads to Chicago. Now, how you travel on that road, and man if you travel in a Cadillac or you hitchhike or you walk, I'm not talking about that; that's preference. But hey, when it comes about the matter of God, He doesn't ask about that. He said, you stand and you ask for the old paths, and ye shall find rest unto your souls, the good, old paths, the good, old ways, the principles. Now, as the good old way, what is true will be found to be old, and what is not old is not true. Now, get that; what is true will be found to be old, and what is not old, is not true. You see, truth is ancient. God is truth. He's always been here, and the revelation, there's nothing new, Ecclesiastes 1:10. There is no new temptation. *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: . . .* Now, rejection. Did you know that people think this matter of young people is something new? No, no, no, no, no. The rejection of dad and mom, no, no, no. All the way through the book of Proverbs, it reads like this. Let me just give you one. Proverbs 6:20-22: *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.* And here all the way through he's talking saying, "Son, hear me; Son, hear me; Son, hear me; Son, hear me." This is not new where our younger generation rejects because of the fact that their peers rejected their elders. That's not new. Young people want to do that. You may do it, and you do it until your all hurt because what your mom and dad are trying to tell you, they didn't originate it; they got that from their parents who got that from their parents; who got that from their parents. It is a

principle that works, and it will go all the way back to eternity. What worked in the Old Testament and New Testament and worked in our forefathers' lives, it works today. And we have a generation, we have a world that junks anything that is old and says, "We don't want to have anything to do with it." I submit to you that, brother, two hundred years of American history did a whole lot better than they're doing today in every aspect, every aspect. That's the good old way. And I'll pinpoint some of them in just a moment. Youthamania where they let the kids decide what they want to study, how to run the home, how to run the schools, and here's the reason some of these folks who write into the ledger, man alive, they don't need to be writing in; they don't even need to get the writing. They need to keep their mouth shut. They don't know what they are talking about. What is it? It's youthamania. But let me just insert this. The issue over sex education, what happened to the morals of young people in school? The schools taught them that, a course called Values Clarification. And they taught them. Now you question everything mom and dad say. You find out for yourself. They taught them that. They're reaping exactly what they sowed, and they can't blame mama and daddy for not telling them. They undermine mom and dad and said, "Now you find out for yourself. You have to know if this is right for you. It may be right for mom and dad, but it may not be right for you." And brother, that's **treason**. That's what's been done. "Now, you just find out for yourself." And that's where we are. And they reaped it; they sowed it, and they're reaping it. Oh, the sex education, that will straighten out everything. It will not straighten out everything. I said a couple Sundays ago if I would have had the modern day sex education, of course I would have been immoral in high school and in the army, but my ignorance is what kept me pure. God said: *but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil*. He said My people are wise to do evil, but to do right, they have no knowledge. You do not help young people by educating them in sin. You educate and build them in innocence. The devil told Adam and Eve this too is the knowledge of good and evil. That's the devil's lie. Sex education is the devil's lie. You'll know good and evil, and God is trying to hold something back from you, and your parents don't want you to know that. What? It wrecks and ruins your life, and there is some education that you're not suppose to have until you need it. And little boys and girls don't need sex education. Let them be boys and girls. Ask for the old paths. Ask for the old paths.

Did you know most of our wisdom is in nursing homes? "Old people, they don't know anything, bunch of dumb bunnies; they don't know anything." Oh but hey, I want to tell you wisdom is in the aged man, the aged woman. I know you younger generation; and the younger generation's running this country. And it's not doing too good at it, wrecked education, wrecked the home life, wrecked our finances, wrecked the law enforcement. It hasn't done too good a job. Hey, let's go back to 200 years of proven experience, what made America great. Humanists will not admit it, but the humanists are not honest. Now, God says stand in the old ways. And, I'm going to take time for this. Sir George's correspondence on "When Is A Man At His Best?" Correspondence on this subject appeared in one of London's leading newspapers a few years ago, and he listed there some very interesting facts. Sir George Birdwood led off my saying that the older a man is so long as he is quite fit, the better he is intellectually, the broader his vision, the saner and wiser his outlook, and the more mature his opinions. And then there came this letter to the editor of the daily mail, Sir, it's not good for the race to believe that a man's best days are over at sixty. It tends to break down a man's energy, prevents him from utilizing the best that's within him, the best that has come from years of experience and work. There are figures that show that the greatest productivity of man's life lies in a decade between his sixtieth and seventieth years. The method adopted to learn the actual facts related to man's work was as follows: Now, I won't take time to read that, but here, It was found that the decade of years between sixty and seventy contains thirty-five percent of the world's greatest achievements. Between the ages of seventy and eighty, twenty-three percent of the achievements found. And the years after eighty, six percent. In other words, sixty-four percent of the great things of the world had been accomplished by men who had passed their sixtieth year. The greatest percentage, thirty-five, being in the seventh decade. The figures for the other periods of life are interesting between the fiftieth and sixtieth years are found twenty-five percent. Between forty and fifty, ten percent. These all total together leaving almost negligible quantity of one percent to be attributed to the period below the age of forty. Two great classes of work fall below the forty year limit; there are deeds which require the extreme of physical power - Man can run a hundred yard dash; man alive, I catch a ball; I throw

the ball. That's physical coordination. That won't tell you how to build a country. That won't tell you how to stay out of hell. That won't tell you how to build a home. That won't tell you how to get your finances right and your home right. It won't tell you that. These are those which require physical power and vim as a conquest of Alexander the Great and the beautiful expression of the lyric portrait which typified the nervous supersensitive temperament of such men as Shelly and Keets. But, taken as a whole, the figures prove conclusively that the period of the greatest achievement in a man's life comes not when he is a youth but only with the years of mature manhood. So what? We ship all of the wisdom of our country and put them in nursing homes and fire them from their jobs and shove them aside; and boy, our country has gone to the dogs. Why? Because we think 200 years couldn't be right. And here these guys ignore it; oh, they've got a degree. And they swag around, and they've wrecked our country. God said to ask for the old paths. Now, I'm not preaching this because I feel old; let's get that settled. I am preaching this because my heart aches. I see young people, I see young adults, blow it and blow it and blow it and blow it; and I cry and I holler and I shout and pound, and I see you blow it and wreck and your life. You don't have to wreck your life. That grieves me. Now, the old fashioned, let's see; return to the old paths. What are they? First of all, old fashioned home making. You watch Hollywood, but it never builds the home. You watch the Soap in the afternoon; that's not natural; that's the old path of sin. It doesn't build lasting homes. Man alive, divorce and divorce, old fashioned commitment until death do us part. We've been married forty-one years, it'll be forty-two years on July 1, the same amount of time my wife has been married. Old fashioned commitment builds home 'til death do us part. We work out our problems. We don't talk about divorce; we don't think about divorce. We're not going to divorce. Listen, we're committed to each other, the old paths of commitment to each other. You do not build a home without commitment. And the shacking up business is not commitment. I can walk out whenever I want to. I can find somebody else whenever I want to. Young people, you've been lied to and lied to by preachers. Jeremiah said that in the verses ahead, he said of the priest and the prophet. What did he tell them? He said: *For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.* And the preacher that tells you that is not a preacher; he's a false prophet; he's not right with God. And he tells you it will not rob you or hurt you; it will hurt you. They were old fashioned, home making, but no divorce; old fashioned, we're going to build a home, not a house. The object today is both get a job, and we're going to buy furniture and all of this. That's not the purpose of marriage. The purpose of marriage is not to build a house but to build a home. And the home is a unit of society. And we need to get back to home making. Old fashioned order, dad the head of the home, mom the completer in submission, and the kids in order. Hey, that did a pretty good job back then, order in the home. There's no sense; there's no use; there's no reason for the kids running everything. And I'm not anti-kid. Old fashioned homemaking, togetherness, togetherness. Home is what, brother and sister, we use to have three generations that lived under the same roof. There's grandpa and grandma and mama and daddy and the children. And man, they worked together, and there was a job for them to do around the family altar. They had very little delinquency. Now here, there are lot of delinquencies because mom and dad, you swallowed Benjamin Spock; you swallowed this philosophy, and that crowd that said you ought not spank a child, you didn't get that out of the Bible. Now hold on now; hold on now. I want to read some verses of Scripture. There is child abuse. When you take a child and you whip him, 50, 75, 100 licks, that's child abuse; that's not spanking. That's not spanking. But the Bible says, now hey, the Bible knows your child and knows my child, and this works. It works in public schools. Should you spank kids in public school? Set there britches on fire. Amen! Amen! Amen! You say, "They won't like that." That's the purpose. You say, "It hurts." That's the purpose. Paddling in school, yes sir, bust them if they're wrong. I'm not talking about brutal. I remember Coach Newt Perry, built like I am, big shoulders, and a little tiny waist like I have. Buddy and I got on the fourth story of the school building. We went smoking dope. We were just having fun. We got to the bottom, and the fun stopped. Old Newt stood there, and he was grinning and laughing. He said, "Come here, boys." I said, "Now, wait just a minute." "Come here, boys." Embarrass me? No, it didn't embarrass me. He made me bend over with my whole class there and made me bend over. I still don't know how in the world he did this. He made me bend over. He laid his hand on the edge there, and said, "Now boys, you've got three licks," and went Whip, Wheww! I don't know how in the world he could start a fire with just that wrist action like that, but he

started it, and he gave me the second one. I said, "Hold on, just a minute." And I walked all around the classroom, "Wheww, Wheww!" I mean I'm on fire. Then, I backed up there, and he gave me the third. I love Newt Perry. Big deal. Embarrass me? No. Man, I ain't going to tell daddy that. And that's the difference today. You go tell mom and dad, and mom and dad go running down to their school and crawl somebody. The best thing you ever did for your kids when they get disciplined, unless they're abused, let them alone, let them alone, let them alone. I wouldn't dare tell papa. Why? Because I'd get worse than I got in school. Don't you tell nobody. Don't you dare do that. You know I don't know what kept me from jumping down the stairs. It didn't make me hate him. It didn't make a spastic out of me. No sir, I think it's funny to this day. One day, I mean I'll get through preaching this morning and I'll just sit there. I've blown it already. One day, I stayed in to watch my buddy get a whipping. Ha, ha, ha! She was tearing him up, and I just laughed. I was having a time. When she got through, she said, "Come here." I said, "Wait a minute now. I didn't," "Here, come here. You come in here." And I got some of that laughing stuff. You straighten out public education. Listen, I can take the Bible and straighten out public education in one month's time. You said, "You're being awfully smart." I'm not being smart. Listen, brother, Bible discipline, when you disobey, you get your bottom busted. And nobody's going to holler. You've got it coming, and you're going to get it. But you can't wait until you get to high school. You've got to start down here with the little fellow that disobeys you. Moms and Dads, would you listen to me? You better get this. If you don't get anything else, when you discipline a kid, you have to always without exception come out on top. If they beat you one time, they'll beat you again and again. And hey, when they get to be teenagers, you've really got something on your hands unless you have a confrontation. Well, I don't want a confrontation. There is no way to deal with rebellion except for confrontation; confront it and get it over with when they're young and let them know, "I'm always going to win, always, always." It may be that I have to take a week's vacation off, but I'm not going to let up until it's over. It works. And listen, power struggle all your life; you let them win and then you decide, okay; you don't do a thing in the world but reenforce it. And when they get to be a teenager, you are in trouble. When mine were young, I'd say, "Son, you can make this long or short if you want to." "Hee, dee, dee, dee. I'm going to come out on top. I'm going to be with no smoke when its over. I'm going to be on top. I'm going to win." I never let them one time think, "I don't know what I'm going to do with you." I know what I'm going to do with you. I'm going to stay with you until you yield. And you ask any of them if I brutalized them. Ask them. "Oh, well, I don't want to discipline him." Ya, and you'll cause him problems down the road, a life of heartache, because of the fact you don't want to come to confrontation. And if you love them, listen, you'll confront them now and get it over with. Old fashioned homemaking.

Quickly, not only old fashioned homemaking but old fashioned virtues. Old fashioned virtues of character. Girls, it does make a difference whether you're pure or not. It makes a difference with a man whether he's pure or not. It does make a difference, and I don't care what they're saying. Listen, if a guy doesn't want to marry you properly, it does make a difference; and don't you let your peers make you commit immorality because you're trying to keep up with them. Lose their smile, but don't lose your purity. Old fashioned morals. Old fashioned honesty, tell the truth; don't lie; quit bending the truth. Quit being deceitful with mom and dad. It will follow you the rest of your life, and you'll get a reputation of being a liar. Your employer won't trust you. Your wife won't trust you. You get married, and your children won't trust you. And listen, you listen, your words be straight and honest. That builds. Honesty and character, and hard work, the dignity of hard work. The Bible says: *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.* Early in life get under the load. And soberness. *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: . . .* Old fashioned pride in your work and old fashioned love of your appearance. This generation in the sixties that try to get over all the values, those who preceded it. They were going to see how grubby looking they could look. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost of God. And you have no business looking grubby. Now, you may get out and work and look grubby, grubby, grubby. I'm not talking about that. Hey, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Men and women, adorn your body, dress it up, make it neat; make it neat. Why? My body belongs to the Lord. And when you make it grubby, you identify with that generation that rejected everything in the world the Bible stands for. Old fashioned, bodily appearance.

Then, old fashioned worship. Did you know we used to come to church to meet God? Oh God, Brethren, we

have to met to worship and adore the Lord our God. Brethren, would you pray while holy manna is gathered all around. And we came to the house of God not for recreation, not for some show, not for some excitement. We came because we wanted to meet God, and oh we waited on God. We prayed, "God, don't let us leave here until you've met with us." And hey, if God meets with us, it's the most refreshing thing in all the world. Oh, you leave refreshed in body and spirit and strengthened and with inspiration to go out and meet a world. We need some old fashioned worship. We go to the house of God to participate. Oh God, meet with us today, and there's a difference. There's a difference. These senior citizens know the difference. A lot of you young adults, you don't know the difference. I'm not shaming you. You couldn't help it cause you was later; but simply, there's a difference. There's a difference. Old fashioned worship.

And then, I close with this admonition. Listen, one admonition, old fashioned salvation. Sinners used to get under conviction. If you don't get under conviction, you don't get saved. And personal worker, would you hear me? If you get a profession of faith without getting a conviction with a person who is a lost sinner, you get green fruit. The Holy Spirit must do His work, and you just can't grab your Bible and run down, "You believe this? You believe this? You believe that? Ask Jesus to save you." No, no, no, you better wait on the Spirit of God to deal with that heart, and that heart knows that he's lost because his heart knows it's lost and not because you told him that they're lost. Old fashioned conviction. Old fashioned Holy Ghost repentance of sin, repentance solves lots of problems. Man, when a man repents, it solves his problems. Man, he doesn't feel like anybody owes him anything. He deserves whatever it costs him. Brother, old fashioned repentance and old fashioned conversion used to change people's lives. Man, when people got saved, I want to tell you what happened. They quit their lying. They quit their cussing. They quit their drinking. They quit their immorality. They were changed on the spot, and they were new creatures in Christ Jesus. Ask how many people in the thousands of folks that are in Lakeland that make professions of faith and they go back to their job, they work at a job; and brother there is not a bit of difference in their lives. The Bible says: *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* And the conversion that does not change your lifestyle and change you, listen brother, you got something besides conversion. Now look at the invitation God gives in Jeremiah 6, and we'll quit, a promise to enjoy, oh my. Jeremiah 6, God says you say ask for the good old paths and walk therein and you shall find rest for your souls. The war is over, rest for your souls. It satisfies. Religious fads and flakes, peace, peace, peace. The facts are all here in history, and everyday life to prove that this is right, old fashioned peace. There is no peace to the wicked. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* They lead to peace, and in the peril of the experience, God said: *Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, . . .* God said, "Okay, if you're not going to walk in the old ways and ask for them, I'll give you up to your thought life." Okay, anybody want to place their thought life up on a screen up here? I'll give you up to practice what your thought life has been, and your thought life comes out of what the heart's deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and God said, "Okay, I'll let you follow your own thought life, and you'll wreck everything that's good and noble and good and wholesome." He doesn't have to do a thing but just step aside. Okay. In America today, God's stepped aside and God's very active in America. He's stepped aside and given 'em up to their thought life, pornography. Hardly a store you go into you don't have the X-rated, the filth and the vile and the paper back books. I haven't read 'em, but there they are, the filth and vile. That's their thought life, and then they read that, and they go home and what happens? They have incest and murder and everything under the sun, and man does that which the animal will not do and practices it. And the whole thing is what? Okay, you just said you want license, you want freedom, you want license and you want liberty, and God gave them up to their thought life. And do you hear me now? You better not look at dirty books, one look, the eye is never satisfied. You'll never see enough dirty books to be satisfied with one look. One look demands another, and by the way, all of us men would like to look in those books. We're not going to look in those books because it's wicked, and I look in those books and I want to look again and again, and after awhile, the look doesn't satisfy, and I move to acting out what I read and I saw in those books and what? I wreck my life and wreck my family, and God said, "Stand ye in the ways, look at the ways." Ask for the old paths. Which way does this road lead? Ask for the ways, the good old ways, and walk therein and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Every head bowed, every eye closed.