

RETURN TO THE OLD PATHS

Jeremiah 6:16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "Bored, bored, bored, etc....." All of us have experienced boredom. The same old thing over and over again and again until we think we're going to lose our minds. So we look for ways to change things so we won't be so bored anymore. Did you ever think that perhaps you may have changed some things in your attitude and ways with the Lord because you have grown tired of the way things have been going? If so, you aren't the first nor will you be the last, what about your Church, does it act like it is bored with God, too?

1. **TEXT - Israel had left the old paths and old ways God had instructed them in and that they had followed for years, but they had gotten tired of doing things the way God wanted.**
2. **Remember when Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments and Israel was waiting at the foot of the mountain how they grew tired of waiting, so they made themselves a golden calf.**
3. **Again, remember when Israel was in the wilderness and God had been feeding them with manna from heaven and they got tired of the same things so they began to complain? What God was doing for them wasn't what they wanted after a while.**
4. **For some reason we find goodness and good things boring after a while, then we have to add something to make some sort of change, to make it "more exciting."**
5. **Sadly, Churches of today are doing the same thing that Israel did with God.**
 - We want permanent salvation, protection from God, IF God will give us some "slack" and allow us to continue to keep some of our worldly ways.
 - We have a lot of "extras" that we want to add to our relationship with God because God is just not enough for us.
6. **For many Christians, God just is too "old fashioned" and is not up to today's way of doing things.**
7. **Any Christian who wishes things could go back to the way God started things, where in His presence there is silence, adoration, reverence, awe, bowing before His greatness, respect for His Name, satisfied with who and what God is, is considered to be a killjoy, old fashioned, and a not of other things that are not complimentary.**
8. **Churches/Christians have tried to "sanctify" the gadgets, "isms," beliefs and customs of the world of today trying to make them necessary for spiritual happiness.**
 - Christians are indeed a part of this world, but are to live as if they are not in this world.
 - Thoughts of God are enough to satisfy one's mind for days.
 - A minute with the presence of God can bring more satisfaction than any or all the modern things this world can offer.
 - "...Seek the old paths...." (*Jeremiah 6:16*)

9. What exactly is the old way, the old path, the way, how God started things for His people?
 - *"..Stand in the way, and see for yourselves, and ask for the old paths, the good way, and you shall find rest for your souls..."*
 - There will be found everlasting truths, the basics, things that never grow old, things that are both ancient and eternal, not affected by time.
10. The truths/doctrines of the Bible do not age, they are timeless, they are eternal and never need to change.
 - What was true when Adam was in the Garden of Eden is still true and will be true through the end of time.
11. No Christian will ever be where he/she should be until certain great truths become a continuous part of his/her life.
 - God
 - God's creation of us.
 - Our response and relationship to/with God.
 - Our sin
 - Humanity's redemption
 - The coming of Jesus
 - The sacrifice of Jesus for us.
 - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - The adoption/birth of our soul into the family of God.
12. No Christian will ever be where he/she ought to be until he/she goes back to those old paths and re-learns where/how to find God.
 - Then one will cease to be "bored" with God and His ways.
 - Then we will stop trying to use God's redemption plan as an escape plan from Hell.
 - Then we will learn how to center our affections upon God and the Lord Jesus Christ/
 - Then we will learn how to live the Spiritual Life God has for us.
13. When Christians get back to God's Ways, it will be amazing how much God will meet their needs.
 - It will not be God AND something else.
 - It will be GOD - EVERYTHING.
 - When Christians learn how to give God first place, what the world has to offer will fall into it's appropriate place - which is not "being in charge."

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, turn your minds away from the world's attractions and stop trying to mix them with God's things and God's ways.
2. One doesn't have to go back to the old beards, old clothes, old ideas, but we do need to return to the eternal truths which God gave and which the Scriptures reveal and stop trying to mix them with the ways of the world.
3. Once you learn how to separate God and God's ways from the world and it's ways, your life will be more like how God wants you to live.
4. *"...Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths..." (Text)*