

PREACHING THE OLD PATHS PT 2

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“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. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 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.” Jer 6:16-19. “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” 1 Peter 5:10

I would like to continue on the subject of, “Preaching the Old Paths.” Preaching of the Old Paths means that I am not interested in pleasing men and therefore have cast my lot in seeking to please God. Thus, we saw last week that to preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God and what He has been pleased to reveal to us in His Word. We preached the TRUTH about the God of the Bible, that He is the Eternal, Self-Existing, Self-Sufficient, Sovereign and Immutable HOLY GOD! The Bible no doubt is the ABSOLUTE TRUTH and we look to it as the rule and practice of our faith. Under this ABSOLUTE TRUTH we have said that it umbrella’s to us in the form of many truths and or teachings, yea doctrines under the auspices of light to guide and lead us. Remember that the Apostle John said in 2 John 1:4, *“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”* We said last week that there are many important doctrinal truths set forth in the Bible, but I’ve rounded these into 6 specifics. It doesn’t mean we cannot add more, yes we can for there are many glorious truths in the Bible, but in regards to man’s eternal state we must I believe preach on these 6 important truths:

- 1. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God.**
- 2. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Man.**
- 3. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**
- 4. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Christ.**
- 5. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Word of God.**
- 6. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.**

I have and will continue to preach these doctrinal truths without wavering and in heavenly authority and settled in a sobering conviction, by DECLARING THUS SAITH THE LORD! I’m going to speak on point 3: **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.** I will pick up on point 2 on man next time. Again, I remind you that, that which is being preached today, is nothing profound, but the simple essence of

the gospel, that is; the simplicity that is found in the Person and Work of our Lord Jesus Christ in the grace of salvation.

If I am to please God I must preach the truth regarding God, the truth regarding man, the truth regarding Jesus Christ and the truth regarding salvation as clearly set forth in the Scriptures. The sad thing is that man is not interested in truth, because man is interested in tradition, that is, religion. We are all born into this world innately religious and we all have a religious propensity to worship someone or something. As long as man continues to seek mere religion they will reject the truth of God in order to hold on to their own beliefs and traditions, unless God intervenes by His Spirit in omnipotent grace. The sad thing is that if we continue in our religious ways we are all doom in our man made religion. Even Christ dealt with this issue in His day, the Word of God clearly states that when God in Christ came to His very own, His very own were no different than those in Jeremiah's time. Notice again our text in Jer.6:10, 16-19 again, "*To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their **ear is uncircumcised**, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD **is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.** 16 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.** 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.** 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 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.**" Jer. 6:16-19 remember this last phrase in verse 19, "...because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."*

Thus I hope you see the importance on: **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.** Turn to the gospel of John and chapter 1 and see how His own received Him not. Read verses 1-14. Now turn to Mark 7:7-9, "*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** 8 For **laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men,** as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. 9 And he said unto them, **Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**" To preach the old paths is to preach the Truth about SALVATION, that is, how is a person saved or how is a sinner saved. This is perhaps the very reason why people fight against God's plan and purpose in salvation, because God's salvation is based and founded upon grace and grace is contrary to works and man's traditions in the realm of salvation. Man's problem is that they want to do something to obtain salvation, that is; to merit salvation. This is why man thinks that they must do a work/works or some religious deed/deeds in order to merit salvation or merit grace from God and in the process knowingly or unknowingly ultimately reject the TRUTH of God's salvation so that they can keep their own religious system embedded in their tradition of works religion and works salvation. Man is so blind to this, that even Isaiah says they grope around in darkness in Isaiah 59:8-14, "*The way of **peace they know not;** and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked**

paths: whosoever goeth therein **shall not know peace**. 9 Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: **we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. 10 We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.** 11 We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; **for salvation, but it is far off from us.** 12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; 13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. 14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: **for truth is fallen in the street,** and equity cannot enter.” What the religionist does not understand is that they are so blind and deaf because they are dead in trespasses and sins! Then you have Satan also blinding them even further in 2 Cor. 4:1-7, “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **(This is why we preach the OLD PATHS, because To preach the old paths is to preach the Truth about SALVATION)** 3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

This is therefore the state of all people in their lost estate, they full well reject the word of God, the commandment of God so that they can keep their own tradition, whatever those traditions are from the infidel, the atheist, the agnostic, the secular humanist, the Buddhist, the Hindu, the Muslim, the cults of our day Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons and so forth and even sad to say in mainline evangelical churches, which includes most Baptist Churches. Man in their depraved nature full well rejects the Word of God regardless of their personal walk, lifestyle, philosophy and or religion. What makes the matter worse are those who have been given great light, like the Jews in Jeremiah's time and in Jesus' time and the religiosity we have in our day, which full well reject the word of God in exchange for their own traditions. This is always the case with the self-righteous religionist. Those words of Jeremiah resound again loudly in our ears, Jer.6: 6-9, “...But they said, **We will not walk therein.** 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.** 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 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.**” Even in Jer. 7:23 where we love to sing this verse, but in the whole context from 23-28 it says, “But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. 24 **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.** 25 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:** 26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, **but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.** 27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they

*will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. 28 But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: **truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.***” Also in Jer.22:29 & 31 where we sing, “29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. 31 I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice.”

We live in a day that Isaiah spoke of in Isaiah 59:4, “None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.” Isaiah 59:14, “And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.” It is in the nature of men to refuse and reject the truth of God, whether a person is religious or not is not in question, but that the heart of man is turned against God. Is this not again what Christ said to the Jews of His day in John 5:40, “And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”

Man will not come to God, except God intervenes; man left to himself will be damned to hell and this is why God in great mercy and love intervenes in the salvation of man. This is why we must preach the OLD Paths, because to preach the OLD PATHS is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.

The problem is that salvation in the eyes of man always begins with himself, this why man looks to himself and to his religion and rejects the truth of God. Listen again to the words of Jeremiah in Jer.1:16, “And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and **worshipped the works of their own hands.**” Religion and works provide a carnal security, that is; a religious covering which is but a veneer of self-righteousness. Except man has a right understanding about salvation as set forth in the Bible, they will continue to seek salvation by the works of their own hands.

Man’s way of salvation in religion and God’s salvation by grace through faith are diametrically opposed. There is no middle ground between these two and one negates the other. The difference between the two is that one puts a Band-Aid over guilt whereas the other removes the guilt. Religion is man’s effort to get rid of a man’s guilty feeling, no matter how short man comes to doing this, man tries in every way by performing their religious duty. It’s like the thief seeking to remove his guilt by returning what he has stolen. Why do the parishioners of the Roman Catholic Church keep returning to the confessional? They want to get something off their conscience and then turn around and do religious works in saying their Our Father’s and Hail Mary’s! The fact that the atheist raves and attacks the idea of God shows forth that their own conscience troubles them. Look at all the heathen religions where people are trying to rid themselves of guilty feelings, by performing all kinds of rituals even to the point of sacrificing their own children. If you recall, we have seen in Micah this type of religious ideology, Micah 6:6&7, “*Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings,*

with calves of a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

This is why man is constantly doing, doing and doing in seeking to remove their guilty feelings, to which they are religiously impotent to do so. There is no rest, night or day, but constant condemnation in the conscience: GUILTY! GUILTY and GUILTY! Man seeks to worship countless gods of their own depraved hearts and minds. Man will worship the stars, the sun and the moon. Man will worship animals of all sorts. Man will worship all kind of idols wood, metal and stone. Man worships metal idols as much as they do mental idols. They'll seek to worship anything to satisfy their innately religious longings, thus the religionist will seek salvation in any from that is conducive to their works and tradition. Amazing what man will do by their religious works and religious traditions to alleviate their conscience in order to have some carnal security.

I believe that John Blanchard's booklet, "Ultimate Questions" hits the nail on the issue regarding religion in his section: Does Religion Help? I think he does a masterful job on this and this is why this is my favorite book to give to lost people? After asking the question, Can Religion Help, he answers with 3 responses that are so true: I quote from the booklet: "*But 'religion', however sincere, can never solve man's sin problem, for at least three reasons. **Religion can never satisfy God.** Religion is man's attempt to make himself right with God, but any such attempt is futile because even man's best efforts are flawed and so are unacceptable to God. The Bible could not be clearer: all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6) God demands perfection; religion fails to meet the demand. **Religion can never remove sin.** Your virtues can never cancel out your vices. Good deeds can never remove bad ones, If a person gets right with God it is not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:9) No religious efforts or experiences — christening, confirmation, baptism, holy communion, churchgoing, prayers, gifts, sacrifices of time and effort, Bible reading or anything else — can cancel out a single sin. **Religion can never change man's sinful nature.** A person's behaviour is not the problem, only the symptom. The heart of man's problem is the problem of man's heart, and by nature man's heart is corrupt and depraved. Going to church and taking part in religious ceremonies may make you feel good but they cannot make you good. Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one! (Job 14:4) Some of the religious activities mentioned above are obviously 'good' in themselves. For example, it is right to go to church, to read the Bible and to pray, because God tells us to do these things. But you dare not rely on them to make you right with God, Not only are they powerless to do so; trusting in them actually adds to your sin and to your condemnation."*

You see this is the problem with man, always attempting by their own strength, wisdom and by the works of their own hands to satisfy God by religion, remove sin by religion and change their heart by religion and we know the Bible is very clear in this matter, that is; none of these 3 things can any religion do or accomplish. For a person to have their heart changed, for a person to have sin removed and for a person to have a satisfied God is by none other than by the only begotten Son of GOD, Jesus Christ! Therefore the way or means whereby God can be satisfied, have our sins removed and have our heart's change is by what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. This is why our LORD Jesus Christ said so clearly and so succinctly in John 14:6, "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" This is the ruin, collapse and demise to religion, but the sad part when we try to share the good news of salvation, the response is basically

always the same, “*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. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 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.”*

I have on many occasions had people say to me in utter unbelief, “*Joe do you really believe that the only way is through Jesus, surely there must be another way, God must have another way just in case someone never hears the gospel and what about the heathen in the remotest parts of the world and what about...?*” I am always amazed at the utter facade (falseness) or pretense, it sounds so thoughtful and so profound, but through the years I’ve come up with two answers for this shallow and false superficial concern:

- Answer. #1. I’ll say something like this, “*Ok, I understand about your feelings regarding those in other parts of the world, that’s why we have missionaries to reach them, but what about you, when you and if you die without Christ, you will not be concerned about world, but about your own soul, but then it will be too late, they might not have the opportunity to hear the gospel, but you have and what will you do with Christ?*” Their usual response is, “*But, Joe do you really believe that Jesus is the only way, come on, there must be other ways to God.*”
- Answer #2. I’ll read or seek to quote John 5:9-11, “*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. 10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*” That is, if a person does not receive the RECORD of the Bible that God has given of His only begotten Son, they make Him a liar. I cannot imagine standing before a TRUINE HOLY GOD, knowing that I called Him a liar.

Usually the next statement goes like this, “*...by the way Joe did you see the Spurs game last night, man that was exciting...*” or whatever was on. It is just a nice way of saying: “We will not hearken and We will not walk therein.” Why, because man is in bondage to religion just as much as he is in bondage to sin and in bondage to Satan and in bondage to this world, that it takes the Omnipotent and Sovereign grace of God by the work of His Holy Spirit to remove these bondages and to impart new life to us! This is why salvation by grace is in complete disagreement and diametrically opposed to religion and a works salvation, but man is so blind in their sins that they do not really understand the essence of the good news or if you wish the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is why my dear ones we MUST, yes MUST constantly be in the business of preaching the OLD PATHS because **To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**

Let us for the remainder of the time look at I Peter 3:18 which so clearly teaches the work of God in the grace of salvation, as to what God does for us in salvation: “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*”

There are 3 things specifically declared from this verse from which we have preached on before:

1. The Procurement of Christ, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins ...*”
2. The Provision of Christ, “*...the just for the unjust ...*”
3. The Purpose of Christ, “*...that he might bring us to God ...*”

Perhaps we can apply them to the 3 things that religion cannot do but faithfully and powerfully performed by our Lord Jesus Christ!

- 1. The procurement of Christ, “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins...”** by procurement we mean that Christ purchase salvation for all those whom He has saved and will save. In Hebrews 9:12, it “*Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*” The word obtained has various meanings and one of them is procured, that is Christ secured, He acquired, achieved, He gained, He obtained the possession of salvation for all those whom He saves! In other words, Christ did not die to make salvation possible, that is, that He tried to do all He could and now it’s up to man, NO, HE PROCURED, HE OBTAINED eternal redemption for us! He secured, purchase eternal redemption for His people, “*“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21) Christ has suffered for the sins of all those whom He has saved and will save and therefore removed sin for us, that is, what religion could not do, CHRIST FULLY ACCOMPLISHED, that is REMOVING OUR SINS! By suffering Peter means that Christ died for us or if you wish died and suffered in our place, that is; Christ died or suffered what should be our penalty and judgment. In dying for us He has removed our sins, that is; there was a work of reconciliation; in other words our sins are imputed to Christ and His righteousness is imputed to us. Christ died, He suffered for us, He died in our place, He experienced our penalty and judgment. You see, religion cannot suffer or die for you, nor can religion produce the work of reconciliation, and worse, religion furthers a sinner’s condemnation. I just love the way it is worded, not just suffered for us but, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins...*” Christ suffered, yea died ONCE, that’s once and for all, which means that His death does not need to be repeated, His work on the cross was a perpetual validity!

Therefore, Christ and Christ alone does what religion cannot do and that is, Christ can and does REMOVE SIN!

2. **The Provision of Christ.** What religion could not do, Christ has done and that is SATIFY GOD, as He died and suffered as the, "...just for the unjust..." Here again we see the provision of Christ in that He died as the just for the unjust. This is the whole essence of Christianity, that the Righteous and Holy Christ, the JUST ONE would die for depraved hell deserving sinners who are unjust and sinful before God. This is why religion cannot in any form satisfy God. God had to send His only begotten Son to be the only provision for sinners, this is why it is called the good news. The good news is that God did not leave us to ourselves after the fall in Genesis 3, but clearly enacted His Glorious and wonderful plan to save sinners. When we consider the whole scheme of redemption, that is, when we consider everything that was done for our salvation even every step in the path of our blessed Savior's humiliation and death which was foreordained in the eternal purpose of God. He who was the darling of heaven became the hatred of man; the Son of God undertook immeasurable sorrow, indescribable anguish and unspeakable pain as He bled and suffered the shameful death of the cross. "...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12:2. God allowed His Son to be crucified and to be made sin for sinners, that is, THE JUST died for the UNJUST! We ask again, why was it necessary for God to allow His own Son to die? Why was it important for Jesus Christ to suffer, the Just for the unjust? Was there no other way for the Sovereign God of the universe to save sinners? What necessitated the death of God's beloved Son? What caused God to pour out His wrath upon His only begotten Son? When we consider the whole scope of salvation the only answer is that the JUSTICE OF GOD HAD TO BE SATISFIED! Because God is a Holy God, sin must be dealt with, sin must be punished, "the soul that sinneth must die," "the wages of sin is death." Justice must be implemented enforced, imposed yea executed upon sin. Satisfaction had to be made in order for God to save anyone. God was under no obligation to save anyone because salvation is altogether the free gift of His SOVEREIGN GRACE, but because He purposed in Himself to save man from the ruins of fallen depravity and thus we see His great love in the giving up of His only Begotten Son. Therefore the only way for God to save sinful man was that the justice of God had to be satisfied. This is why the JUST had to die for the unjust. The only thing that could ever satisfy the justice of God is the precious blood of Christ. The only substitute that could satisfy all the holy demands of God was Jesus Christ, the JUST for the unjust! Because of this glorious work by Christ in undertaking our place as a substitute in fully and completely satisfying God's justice, God can now freely forgive sinners, He can be the just and justifier of all those that believe. For the sinful He died, for the guilty He died, for the ungodly He died, yes HE DIED as the JUST for the unjust in order to bring us to GOD! Jesus Christ became obedient unto death, He

voluntarily became our substitute, when He cried from the cross, "It is finished," He fulfilled everything needed for us to be saved! The fact that He was resurrected from the grave proves that the Father was fully and completely satisfied in every aspect of His offering for sin. Jesus Christ died as the JUST for the unjust! The fact that God allowed all this to happen to His Son in order that He would be made sin for sinners should cause us to realize the depths of His love for us. We must like Isaiah be astonished that all this was the work of God's own hand. It causes us to be in awe with holy reverence to consider that my crucified LORD did this because of His great love for us. How can you fathom the thought that God the Father allowed His Son to suffer such a death? The hymn by Charles Wesley, "And can it be," describes this:

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood!
Died he for me? Who caused his pain!
For me? Who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

I think Charles Wesley hit it on the nail when he asked the question, died he for me who caused his pain. To consider that it was my sins that cause His pain, but He willingly died for me? What made that necessity? Wesley makes another interesting phrase:

'Tis mystery all: th' Immortal dies:
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all" Let earth adore,
Let angels minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all let earth adore.

May God be please to turn your heart to cause you to see Christ as your substitute and causing you to flee to Christ as your SAVIOR!

3. **The Purpose of Christ "...that he might bring us to God ..."** Christ suffered and died for us as the JUST for the UNJUST for the purpose that HE by OMNIPOTENT GRACE and POWER might bring us to GOD! This work is also part of God changing our hearts to bring us to Himself. Again, what religion could not do in any way or form, Christ does in miraculous power. Religion does not bring you to God, no religions blocks the way to God, but Christ does and will bring any willing sinner to GOD! Jesus Christ came to suffer as substitute once and for all; He came as God manifest in the flesh **to procure salvation for us**. He also came as the sacrifice and surety to die as the just for the unjust, that is, **He became provision for sinners**. Thus, Christ also came for **the purpose** to act as reconciler so that He might bring

us to God. The doctrine of reconciliation is for the purpose of Jesus Christ bringing us to God, because we are unable to bring ourselves to God. As mediator, Christ removes the barrier that is between us and God. The glorious work of Christ as our substitute, as our sacrifice, as our surety, as our mediator, as our reconciler and as our Great God and SAVIOR is seen the Person and Work of Christ which gives those of who are saved the Blessed Assurance in our Salvation. Thus, the PURPOSE of Christ is to bring us to God. The fact that we need to be brought to Christ presupposes that we are far removed and separated from God. By separation we mean that every person born into this world is born estranged and alienated from God because of their sins and therefore as we have said over and over again, this is something that religion cannot do! All of us who are born into this world are infected with the depravity of sin which makes it universal in scale and completely and universally impossible for any man to live in such a way to please God. Why? Because we have all missed the mark, we are all infected with a deadly and lethal virus that condemns our souls to hell if we die without being reconciled to God by the only mediator of sinners: JESUS CHRIST! This is the only cure, the only antidote for sinners. With man salvation it is impossible, but with God it is possible. Acts 4:12 says, *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* What a hope in the grace of salvation, that God is willing and ready to save sinners. The blessings of salvation is that when God saves a sinner that sinner is set free from the penalty and condemnation of God’s holy Law and justice, that is, that sinner is now a saved sinner and therefore:

- **No Condemnation.**
- **No Guilt.**
- **No Punishment.**
- **No Eternal Death.**
- **No Hell.**

Saved for all eternity, eternally secured! The opposite is true of those who die without Christ, no, not set free but condemned for all eternity, you see if you die without Christ you might just read these words on top of Hell’s Gate: TOO LATE!

If you are outside Christ, I plead with you again, come to Christ for salvation: Repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh my dear ones who name the name of Christ, I also plead with you to be faithful in presenting the unadulterated and true gospel without compromise or complacency, but in holy conviction for eternity is at stake, especially in this untoward generation that longs more for Sodom than they do for the SAVIOR!

This, my dear ones is why we must preach the old paths, because **to preach the OLD PATHS is the PREACH the TRUTH ABOUT SALVATION!** Let’s Pray and let’s sing: