# ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS

***It’s The Good Way***

In a certain state back in 1872 there were rules laid down by the Board of Education for all teachers to abide by. If you are a teacher today, or a teacher-wanna-be, you might pay attention to these:

1. Teacher each day will fill lamps and clean chimneys.

2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal for the day’s session.

3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.

4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.

5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay day a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.

8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop gives good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.

9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for 5 years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay, provided the Board of Education approves.

I can hear your response even now. “That is ridiculous! Preposterous! Unbelievable! Who would live the life of a teacher with those crazy rules?

Well, those were the rules. You lived by them, or you didn’t teach.

Every day and age has its rules to live by. Rules are by their very nature restrictive. Rules erect boundaries to tell everyone who comes under them that there are guidelines to be followed, and violators will be prosecuted.

Today, if you are a teacher, I seriously doubt you are in a nostalgic trance yearning for the “good old days” of 1872. Why do I doubt this? Because your present freedoms would make you miserable living by those old, archaic rules.

Rules, established by men, are often considered outdated in time, and need updating. That is because men are ever changing their standards. But I trust you know, if you are a Bible student, that the “old rules” written by God are the only way to freedom and rest for your soul.

Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, spent 40 years trying to call the “modern minds” of his day back to “the old paths” written by Moses over 700 years before. Read the following appeal and weep with him.

Jeremiah 6:16-19 reads:

16 *Thus says the LORD*: *Stand in the ways and see, And* ***ask for the old paths****, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' 17 Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' 18 ¶ Therefore hear, you nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people-The fruit of their thoughts, Because they have not heeded My words, Nor My law, but rejected it.”*

Israel’s reply was the same as many today when they don’t like “the old paths” or the old rules. “We will not listen!” They hated rules which restricted their lifestyle. They got their way too… but only for a short time. It was not long before they found themselves in chains and shackles being carried away into captivity. It was then that they learned, the hard way, that the Old Rules were their pathway to true freedom. When you violate the rules, you pay the price.

The Old Rules for teachers back in 1872 might be rightly discarded and replaced. In fact, they needed to be! But the Old Rules of 33 A.D. are beyond amendment or replacement. They are the very rules which will “*judge you in the last day*” (John 12:48) and which give to us “*all things which pertain to life and godliness*” today (2 Pet 1:3).

Jesus said, “*If you love Me, keep My commandments*” (John 14:15). Yes, those commandments are a yoke which restricts your choices, but they are far lighter and less burdensome than the yoke of the world (Matt. 11:28-30).

*28 “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

I became a Christian on April 26, 1964. That’s 57 years of following the Old Paths. I don’t have one day of regret. I found “*the abundant life*” (John 10:10) by wearing that yoke of the Lord. If you are burdened by the rules of the world, join me in following a new path, which is the old path. You too will never regret it.

* Rick