

The RELEVANCY Of the Old Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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*.’”

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Jeremiah's Ministry



- Jeremiah: A priest from the village of Anathoth in Benjamin just a few miles northeast of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah's prophecies were written down by Baruch, his scribe (36:4,27-28,32).

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Jeremiah's Ministry



- Began 13th year of the reign of King Josiah (1:2; 25:3), i.e., 627 B.C., (1:6).
- Prophesied after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (39:1-10; 43:7-8; 44:1),
- Lasted about 50 years.

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Jeremiah's Ministry



- Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13,32; 5:19; 7:18,31; 17:1-2; 19:4-5).
- Guilty of gross personal unrighteousness (5:1,7-8,25-28; 6:13).
- The Jews hypocritically claimed to be God's people (5:2; 7:9-11),

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Jeremiah's Ministry



- They refused to hear God's word (6:16-19; 7:25-26; 25:3-7; 36:20-24),
- They refused to be corrected (5:3,21; 6:15; 17:23; 44:15-18),
- Followed false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear (5:30-31; 6:14; 7:8; 14:13-14)

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Jeremiah's Ministry



- Called Judah to repent (3:1; 7:4-7)
- They refused (6:16-17; 20:1-2; 32:2-5; 37:11-21; 38:1-13; 43:1-7).
- He foretold their destruction (5:9-10,14-18,29; 6:22-26; 7:16,32-34; 14:15-16; 25:8-10).
- The nation of Israel would be so totally destroyed that it would never be made whole again (19:10-11).

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Rubel Shelly

“The Spirit of God is still moving and acting in the church today and we must be more open to it. The result will be exhilarating changes in the worship and mission of the church. It has been a mistake to emphasize ‘the old paths’ because we need to be open to change....” “The church has got to change. If it doesn’t change, my kids are not going to stay with it. I’m probably not going to stay with it... Mine was the last generation that would tolerate indoctrination.”

-Rubel Shelly - “The Church In The 90’s: The Challenge Of Change” -
Behold The Pattern, Goebel Music, 284-322

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The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10

Jeremiah 6:10 (NKJV)
10 To whom shall I speak
and give warning, That
they may hear? Indeed
their ear *is* uncircumcised,
And they cannot give
heed. Behold, the word of
the Lord is a reproach to
them; They have no
delight in it.

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The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord. I am weary of holding *it* in. “I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, ...

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The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)
The aged with *him who is*
full of days. ¹² And their
houses shall be turned
over to others, Fields and
wives together; For I will
stretch out My hand
Against the inhabitants of
the land,” says the Lord.

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The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12
- The extent of the people's sins (least to greatest) - 13

Jeremiah 6:13 (NKJV)
13 “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone *is* given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.

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The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12
- The extent of the people's sins (least to greatest) - 13
- The false message of peace the people believed - 14

Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)
14 They have also
healed the hurt of
My people slightly,
Saying, 'Peace,
peace!' When *there*
is no peace.

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The Context ...

Jeremiah 6:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down,” says the Lord.

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Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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*.’

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“Thus Says The LORD”



- **God Spoke** - to them through the prophets – Heb 1:1; 2 Pet 1:20,21
- **God Speaks** through Jesus – Deut 18:15; Mt 17:5; 28:18-20; Heb 1:1,2
- **God Speaks** - to us through the BIBLE - the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth which they wrote down – Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Co 14:37; Ep 3:3-5; 2 Tim 3:16,17; Jude 1:3

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"Stand in the ways and see,"



- **Stand** – Stop ... Pause & reflect. Haggai 1:5; 2 Cor 13:5
- **In the ways** – There is more than one way to travel – Mat 7:13,14;
- **And see** – Understand where you are – Act 17:11; 1 Jo 3:19-24

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“And ask for the old paths,”



- **Ask** – “What has God said?” Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Pet 4:11
- Need to seek God & His way – Mat 5:6; John 7:17
- **The Old Paths** – The revealed pattern – 1 Cor 11:1,2; Phili 3:17; 4:9; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 The 2:5; Ju 3
- God’s Law, testimonies, judgments ... Psalm 119:97-104

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“where the good way is,”



- **The Good Way** –

- God's way, which is revealed in the Bible, is the ONLY GOOD WAY! - Psalm 19:7-9; Mat 7:13,14; Jn 14:6; 2 Tim 3:16,17
- Our way, if not also God's way, is NOT good!! - (I think; I feel; I know; I want; etc.) - Prov 14:12; Jer 10:23; Mat 15:7-9;

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“And walk in it;”



- **We have a choice** - Josh 24:15; Deut 30:11-20; Rom 6:16-18; 10:5-17
- **Obey what the Lord says** – Jer 7:23; Mt 7:21-27; Joh 13:17; 15:10; Rom 1:5; 6:16-18; Jam 1:22-25; Heb 5:8,9
- **Staying within the revealed pattern** – Col 3:17; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Tim 1:13; Mat 21:23-25

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“And walk in it;”

Examples of Some Who DID NOT!

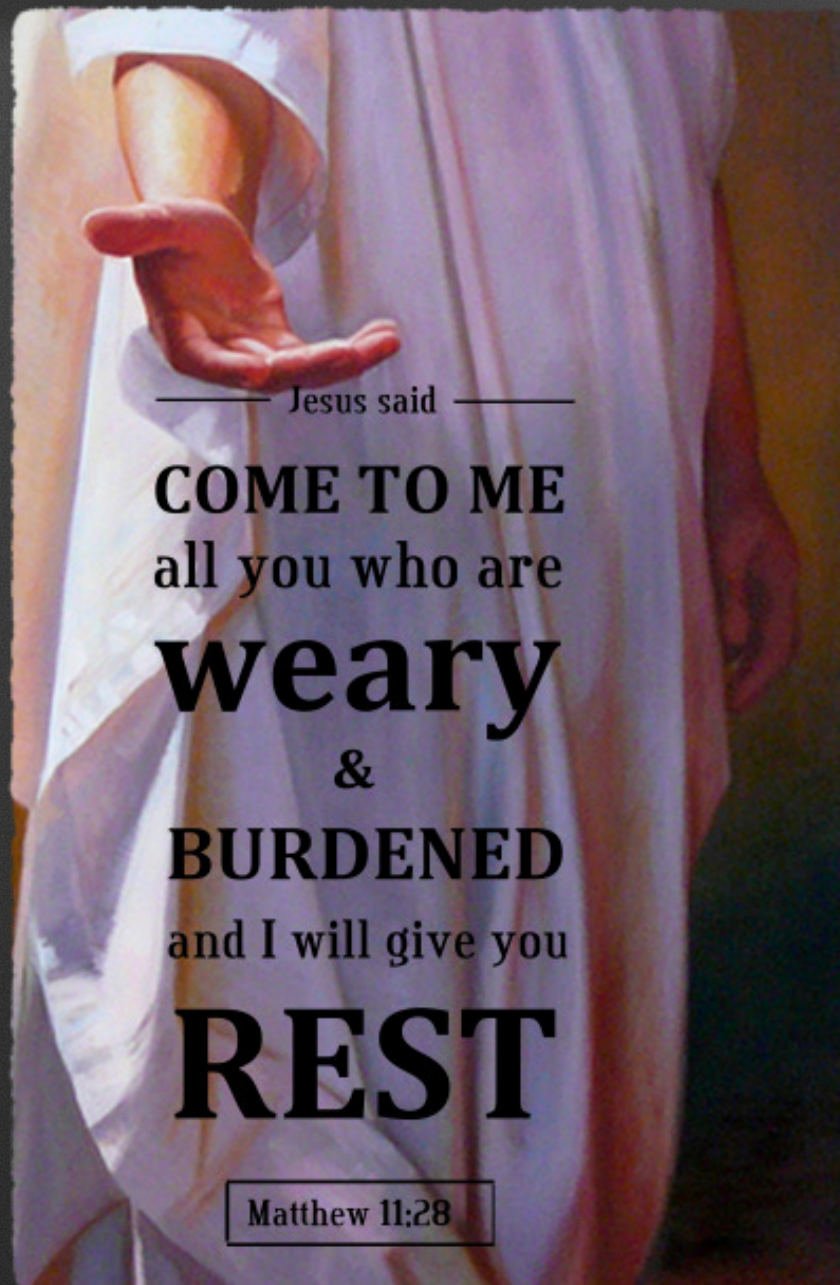


- **Cain** – (Gen. 4:7) – Heb 11:4
- **Nadab & Abihu** – (Lev. 10:1,2)
- **Moses** – (Num 20:8-24)
- **King Saul** – (1 Sam. 13 & 15)
- **David's ox cart** – (1 Chr. 13:7-12; 15:2-13)
- **Jeroboam** – (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- **Uzziah** – (2 Chr. 26:16-23)
- **Warning To US** - 2 John 1:9,10

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“Then you will find rest for your souls”



- ONLY IF we obey the Lord and stay within the revealed pattern will we find rest for our souls! — Rom 2:7; Heb 5:8,9; Rev 22:14
- The path of morality
- The path of salvation
- The path of worship
- The path of service

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“But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'”



- **They chose their way rather than God's way**
- 2:13; 10:23; Rom 1:18-25
- **The consequences** –
Jeremiah 6:17-20; Deut 30:17-19; Rom 2:8; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Heb 12:25

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Will WE Hear The Lord?

- God's word is JUST as relevant today as it has ever been! - 2 Thes 2:15

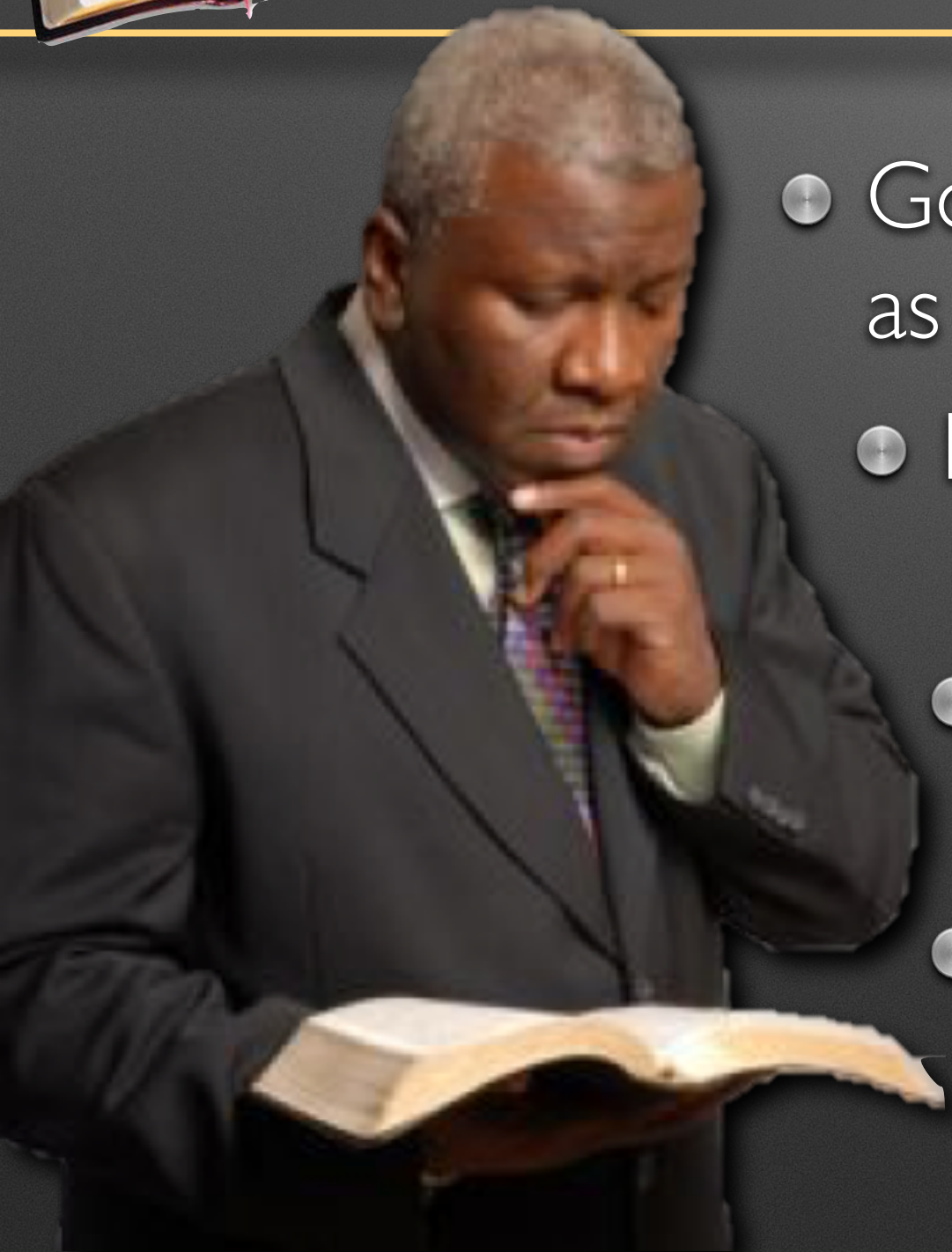


¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

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Will WE Hear The Lord?

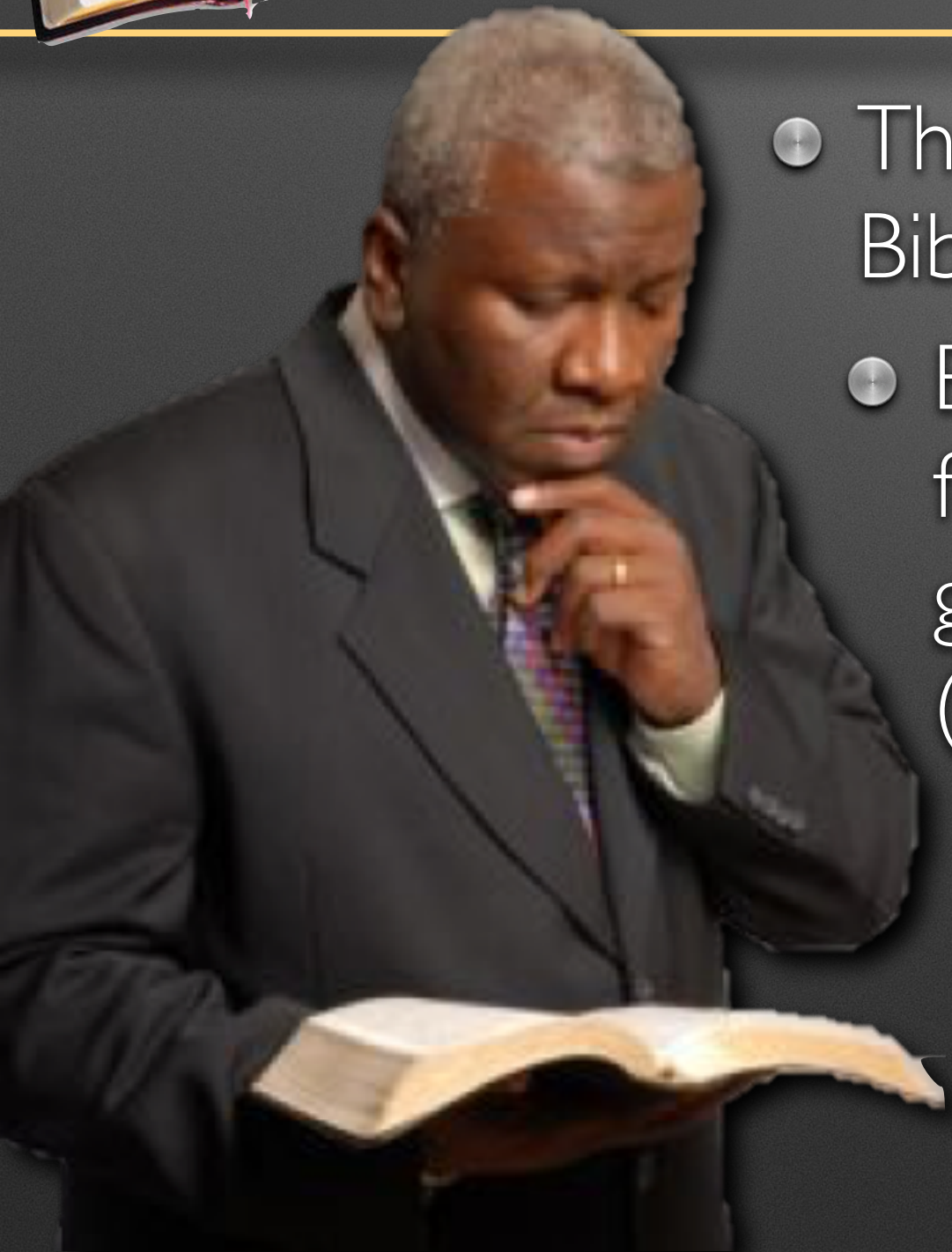


- God's word is JUST as relevant today as it has ever been! - 2 Thes 2:15
- Last forever - 1 Peter 1:22-25; Ps. 102:12, 26; Mat 24:35;
- Forever settled in heaven - 119:89; Is. 40:8;
- Will be judged by the words of Jesus - John 12:28; Rev 22:18,19

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Will WE Hear The Lord?



- The restoration plea - “Back to the Bible!” - *(Josiah 2 Kin 22,23; Ezra, Nehemiah)*
- Being a local church committed to following the Old Paths, where the good way is, in doctrine & practice! - *(Acts 2:42-47; 2 Tim 1:13)*
 - Plan of salvation - *(Mk 16:16)*
 - Worship - *(Jn 4:24; Heb 12:28)*
 - Work - *(1 Cor 14; 1 Thes 1:8; 2 Cor 8:1-5; 1 Cor 16:1,2)*

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Will WE Hear The Lord?

When we move away from the firm foundation of a “thus saith the Lord” we:

**Start to measure
what we will do
by what we
have done –**

**We will move
further and
further away
from God –**

**We set a
course for
complete
apostasy –**

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Will WE Hear The Lord?

Man's Way Emphasizes

Self
Judges 21:25

Feelings
1 Kings 12:33

Rationalization
Matt. 19:8-9

God's Way Emphasizes

Authority & Absolute Truth
John 8:31-32

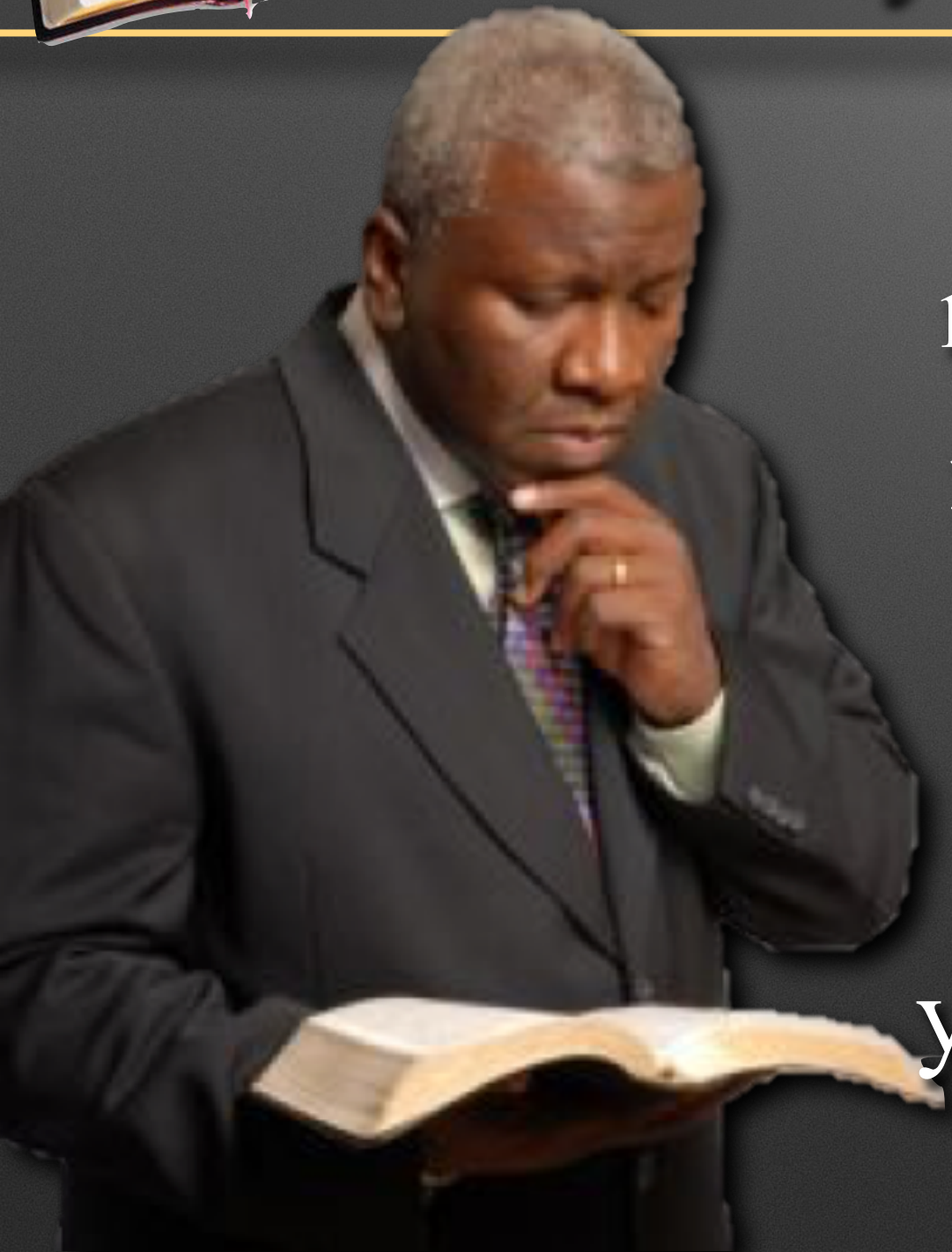
The Need For Obedience
Matt. 7:21; John 14:15

The Reality of Sin
1 John 3:4

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Will you hear the Lord?



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Will you hear the Lord?



- Consider where you are on the road to salvation?
- Ask for the old paths?
- Walk in them?
- Find rest for your soul?
- They didn't – will you?

The RELEVANCY *of the* Old Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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Jeremiah 18:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Because My people have forgotten Me,
They have burned incense to worthless idols.
And they have caused themselves to stumble in
their ways, *From* the ancient paths, To walk in
pathways and not on a highway, ¹⁶ To make
their land desolate *and* a perpetual hissing;
Everyone who passes by it will be astonished
And shake his head. ¹⁷ I will scatter them as
with an east wind before the enemy; I will show
them the back and not the face In the day of
their calamity.”