The Old Paths Principal Practiced  
 Jeremiah 6:13-17

Introduction:

1. This passage presents a principal and a problem.
   1. The principal.
      1. In Jeremiah’s day: return to God under the law. Jeremiah 6:13-15
      2. In our day: speak where the Bible speaks.
   2. Problem: return to first century teaching and practices in the modern age.
      1. We would not advise this in transportation, communication, medicine, etc.
      2. What makes the difference in religion?
2. There is a difference in the laws involved.
   1. God’s natural laws are impressed in nature; must be discovered: law of gravity, water = H2O; penicillin from mold.
   2. God’s spiritual laws were revealed and are complete in His Word, the Bible.
      1. Bible was given through man by His spirit. 2 Peter 1:20,21
      2. Laws will furnish one unto every good work and are able to produce salvation. 2 Timothy 3:14-17
      3. Laws are complete. James 1:25
   3. God’s spiritual law does not need discovering, but to be read and obeyed.
3. PRINCIPAL RECOGNIZED BY EARLY CHURCH.
   1. Church finds example of principal in Jesus.
      1. His baptism. Matthew 3:15; Psalm 119:172
      2. Temptation. Matthew 4:4, 7, 10
      3. His mission. Matthew 5:17, 18
      4. Betrayal. Matthew 26:53, 54
      5. Whole life.
   2. Early disciples recognized principal.
      1. Peter and John. Acts 4:12,18-20; 5:28, 29
         1. Prayer of disciples for them. Acts 4:29
         2. Peter. 1 Peter 4:11
         3. John. Revelation 22:18,19; 2 John 9-11
      2. Paul. Galatians 1:6-12
   3. Attitudes toward will of God, Old Paths. Jeremiah 6:16
4. PRINCIPAL APPLIED BY EARLY CHURCH.
   1. Preaching of gospel. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
   2. Plan of salvation. Romans 6:17,18; Romans 6:1-7
   3. Lord’s supper, music. John 4:24; John 17:17
   4. Fellowship. 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14
   5. Conduct. Philippians 1:27
   6. Guiding others in God’s work. 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Timothy 4:16
   7. Old paths. Jeremiah 6:16
5. APPLY TODAY.
   1. Baseball rule book.
      1. Played in many places, same game.
      2. Field size, ball, strikes, outs, innings.
   2. Speak where Bible speaks. 1 Peter 4:11
   3. Unity. John 17:20, 21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6

Conclusion:

1. Early church was built upon God’s word.
   1. Kingdom of God is produced by it. 2 Peter 1:22-25; Acts 2:37, 38, 41, 47
   2. God’s people must follow it today.
2. Won’t you accept it? Jeremiah 6:16
3. A passenger train was going into New York city at a high rate of speed. A freight train leaving New York ask for clearance to leave on the same track. Through a mistake, he was given clearance. There was a wreck. The engineer of the freight train was pinned under the wreckage waving a yellow piece of paper, crying, “Please take this paper. It will show that somebody gave me the wrong orders.”
4. Baseball rule book.
5. Baseball.
6. Whiffleball.
7. Baseball bat.
8. Tennis racket.
9. Creed books.
   1. Mormon. Page 211
   2. Methodist. Page 39
   3. Seventh Day Adventist. Page 20