HOLD ON TO THE OLD PATHS

**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*. Jer 6:16 (KJV)

 We are celebrating eighty-five years as Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church. The name “Pleasant View” has eighty-five years of continuity with this establishment. Missionary Baptist has much longer roots. But the old paths which we must hold on to are the ones that lie in the New Testament “Church.”

 I love Southern Gospel music and I would like to claim that it was the music of the Church in the New Testament but that is not possible for it would not be true. It is not possible to claim that they used convention style books and sang in four part harmony. They did not have a piano, bass guitar or an organ. The New Testament does not mention an instrument that accompanied their worship. The Old Testament does but not the New Testament. This does not mean that we should not use instruments in our worship but it does suggest that we cannot claim to have a monopoly on worship style. I am just trying to point out that our old path is not so much attached to music.

 Some religious groups think that the old paths are our eating habits. In other words, what we eat. They think that if we do not eat pork or red meat we are holding to the old paths. Others are of the opinion that it is the day we worship on, so they worship on Saturday instead of Sunday. Although the New Testament Church met for worship on the first day of the week, the old paths are not in fish and vegetables or in certain worship days and times. Yes some think that the old paths are making sure that we have Sunday School at ten o’clock and worship at eleven and some even think that it is making sure we get out by twelve.

 The old paths are the doctrines that Christ left us. The doctrine of Christ death on the cross is an old path that we must walk in. Christ said that if any would be his disciple he must forsake himself, take up his cross and follow him. This is an old path that we can travel any day of the week. In fact, we should follow this old path every day. The doctrine of Jesus resurrection is most important. If this is doctrine not believed then one doesn’t believe in a living Savior. One cannot believe in a Savior that can hear and answer prayer if he does not believe in the resurrection. Our hope in Heaven is purely based on the fact that Jesus rose from the grave and that we too will rise from the grave because he became the first-fruits from the grave. Jesus is coming again, that is an old path that we must hold on to. He will not leave us here. This world is not our final destination.

 I certainly have not covered all our old paths but there is one that I will mention again, that is the certainty that there will be a homecoming in Glory, a great family reunion that all Christians will make. Our focus will be on the patriarch Christ who is from eternity past and will be thru eternity future. Our worship will be heaven born and there will not be one argument over whether it should be contemporary or traditional. We may not even know whether it is Saturday or Sunday. All we know is that it will never come a night. Is it not wonderful to know that the old paths that we have held onto will lead us to Heaven?

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram