

## Finding the Ancient Paths

Twenty-five hundred years ago, through Jeremiah, God said to the southern kingdom of Judah, "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." However, they said, "We will not walk therein" (Jer. 6:16).

God has never left his people without guidance. In the Hebrew Scriptures, through Moses God gave the Israelites the Law (or Torah; sometimes this refers to the first five books of the Old Testament or to the 613 specific laws of the enclosed). Throughout Israel's history, the prophets repeatedly tried to get God's people back to the Law. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled both the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17-20). In a Moses-like persona, Jesus went up the Mount and gave his disciples a new type of Law (or Torah; Matt. 5-7). This Law is not one that he would carve into tables of stone, but one that he would etch into their minds and hearts (Heb. 8:10-12).

In our world of religious confusion, people take many paths to find the good way, but God said we could only find the good way in the ancient paths. God pled to Judah to find the ancient paths and follow his Law, but they refused to do so and this decision led to their destruction. Today, Jesus is the Way to the Father (John 14:6) and we need to be followers of that Way (Acts 19:2). That is, we need to get back to Jesus' teachings and follow his precepts, and only then can we become followers of that Way. "We need to get back to the Bible. We need to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent and call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways. We need to restore the church as it was in the days of the apostles" (housetohouse.com).

While there is no explanation for why people forsake the ancient paths today, their destination is the same as the ancient Jews. It is destruction and their god is their own appetites (Php 3:19). While some mind only earthly things, we should remember that we are citizens of heaven (Php. 3:20a). When our god is our own appetites, we leave the ancient paths and find new, perverse paths.

*Stephen Scaggs*  
Collinsville, VA

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**April 30, 2017**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**[www.evanchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evanchurchofchrist.org)**

## The Attitude of the Heart

by J. David Tant



Years ago we had a cartoon character in our papers named Joe Btfsplk. Wherever he was, there was a cloud over his head. He was a pretty sad looking fellow. The only luck he seemed to have was bad luck. I think I have known people like that — always gloomy — always "woe is me."

Obviously, life is not always sunshine and roses. Into every life some rain must fall, and our Lord never promised a life free of pain and sorrow. But what we do with our misfortunes makes all the difference in the kind of life we have.

Consider Paul's situation as he spent day after day in a prison cell—probably the Mamartine Prison in Rome. His cell was a dungeon below the street, hewn out of rock, cold, damp and dark. And why was he in prison? For the crime of preaching Christ. And some of his "brethren" were trying to make things harder for him. But rather than feeling sorry for himself, he pointed out that his imprisonment was actually causing the gospel to be spread. *"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice"* ([Philippians 1:18](#)).

I knew a young woman many years ago who suffered from crippling arthritis. Marian White was bound to a wheelchair, and could do little to take care of herself. But she had a cheerful disposition, and used her good mind to write children's Bible story books.

A close friend in Jamaica is a total invalid. Mahlon Mauta was paralyzed from the neck down in a fall years ago. He cannot even feed himself. His wife has abandoned him. We spend time with him on each trip to teach in Jamaica, and he always has a smile, and never complains. At times he has invited many neighbors over for a Bible study.

My brother-in-law, John Iverson, is 94 years old and confined to an assisted living home. He lives in pain. But you would never know it from his cheerful attitude. And he regularly has Bible studies with young people who come to his room.

Myrtle lived in a convalescent room for 25 years. She was blind, nearly deaf, and suffering from disfiguring facial cancer. What did she do with her time? She sang spiritual songs. She thought about Jesus. "I think about how good he's been to me."

**(continued on next page)**

### Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett (FV) Calvin Burks

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Vernon Houts

2nd prayer Jack Wall

Announcements: Keith Stillemire

Singing: Judd Wall

### Prayer List:

Naomi Wall

Letha Sheldon

Mildred Lovell

Janese Lancaster

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personal

### Dates to Remember

**April 30th**

*Fellowship Meal*

**May 7th**

*Mission Fund*

**May 14th**

*Mother's Day*



**Emma Lee Burks April 28th**

**Connie Mallett April 30th**

**Jana Wall Mat 18th**

- **There is a sign up sheet on the back wall for those that are interested in doing card and preparing the Lords Supper.**
- **Also please don't forget to sign the cards on the back table.**

## The Attitude of the Heart

**(continued)**

Now back to Paul. How could he rejoice in his situation? *"I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me"* ([Philippians 4:11-13](#)).

**It's all in the attitude of the heart!** In many respects, life is what we make of it, not what it makes of us.