

Time to Take Stock - Time to NEW FADS OR OLD FAITH

in us there is the
urge to start over,
a clean slate

Text: Jeremiah 6:9-21

many will be discussing - "What's
wrong with world,"

INTRODUCTION: We hear the popular expression: "We are at the crossroads." The truth is, we have already past the crossroads, and we took the wrong path. This is what Jeremiah is saying--this was the case with Israel. They had strayed off the right path and were nationally and individually heading for disaster. Their heads had been turned by the other things, the things of the world. This message of Jeremiah calls for them to stop their mad rush to ruin. The Lord out of Divine patience seeks to check their headlong rush to perdition by flashing a signal of warning. He pleads with them to go back to the crossroads to see where they went wrong and find the right path. The Bible often speaks of life as a journey, as a walk. The whole life needs to be changed. This is an appropriate text for the new year. We as a nation, as a church, as individuals need to re-examine our lives--are we on the right path--we need to stand at the crossroads and seek the old path, the right path.

Not the good old days
but the good old ways

lost ahead

I. THE WRONG PATHS OF FAILURE WHICH MANY ARE UPON . Verses 9-15

not everyone can be
hypnotized - strong willed,
if don't believe in it,
can't be.

Jeremiah lays out the proof that Israel is on the wrong path; reveals their need of returning. *Some paths men walked in this past year.*

1. The Path of indifference to God. Verse 10. *College of not against will -*

Their ears were closed to the word of God which they despised. To many the word of God is not a delight; it is an object of ridicule and reproach; suitable for children and imbeciles, but not to the enlightened understanding and the superior learning. They treat it with contempt and are indifferent, fail to recognize its solemn importance. They are determined not to hearken to it because it lashes out at their sins.

Staring in eyes of sin, shrouded by it.

Ill--N B C'S World of Billy Graham, and Harriet Van Horne's ridicule of it.

Unless the word of God is our delight it is bound to be a nagging weariness.

2. The path of Greed. Verse 13.

The spirit of greediness had enveloped the people. We often think of only the rich being the covetous, but here it is also the poor--"from least to the greatest." It is a contradiction of God's way of life, which is giving. This spirit has been revealed at the recent Christmas season.

3. The path of false optimism. Verse 14

What is really a cancer, they treat lightly, with unconcern and indifference.

Ill- Van Horne--"Not a nation of sinners."

are we doing this in this Church?
— Sometimes hurt but necessary

"Hurt"--sin of the people. They make nothing of it. These leaders are like worthless surgeons. They refuse to examine or probe the wound of the people in their care, and for the sake of their own ease assure their patients that all is well.

III- French artist Forain--"I am going to die cured."

The hurt is not a slight matter, but a matter of life and death, a breaking down of the morality that threatens our very existence as a nation. We are totally blind to our real condition. Soft-soaping, smooth-flowing words from honey-drippers will not cure the ill. The cure is confession and repentance.

3. The path of shamelessness, Verse/5

A lack of shame in the presence of sin. They could not even blush; brazen-faced offenders. A sensitiveness to the shame of wrong-doing is an essential part of human living. To be "hardened" against being ashamed is not a strength, but a distortion of human life.

phil 3- "jeering in

These things attract the lightening of God's wrath-- *near shame."*

Note the gracious invitation of God:

II. THE OLD PATH OF FAITH--Verse 16

There is only one path which I approve

"Go back and find the right path. The prophet bids the people to learn the lessons of past experience. The word "ask" means to demand--demand it, take nothing else, but the way of God.

1- *Demand the way*

2. Description of the way.

no new way to please G-

(1) It is old: Not all old paths are good. Sin is as old as man. But the way of God is an old path, traveled by many for many years. *no new way to be saved*

(2) It is good--Way which leads to good, prosperity, salvation. Jeremiah is referring to the law which had been re-discovered. The old path is the path of obedience to the law of God; submission to His will. He is primarily concerned with the moral teachings of the law. They believed the doctrines. The sin which Jeremiah condemns is their failure to observe the covenant in its essential moral and ethical requirements.

the shattered pieces of the past will become the pure hope of the future.

Can not be body but not the soul -

3. The destination of this way--"rest for your souls."

Deep peace of mind in the face of threatening national dangers. Who knows what this year will bring? But whatever, ... to choose the old path is to be free from anxiety--surrender to Christ and obedience to God brings peace to the heart. "No peace---to the wicked." "Come...and I will give...rest."

But to some the old way seems impracticable, out of style--refuse to walk in it; instead choose

III. THE PATHS OF NEW FADS. Verses 17-21

1. It is the path of stubborn rebellion

Vs. 16b--"We will not walk therein." Imperfect tense: said over and over, repeatedly and stubbornly--"we will not."

Vs. 17: Watchmen: sentinel, prophets; sound of trumpet: manner of warning of approaching danger. "We will not hearken." Imperfect tense--stubbornness.

He appealed to the past: We will not.
He appealed to the present: We will not.

Many, when faced with the message of God, choose to walk this path.

2. The path of substitution--Verse 20

Jeremiah contrasts the "old paths" with the new-fangled costly refinements in religion.

Incense: the finest of its kind. They went to great expense and trouble to provide these--the latest fads in religion. *Says, "wasting money."* ✓

✓ They are substituting sacrifices for obedience. But there is no alternative to obedience. God rejects not the ceremonial service, but the substitution of it for personal holiness and morality. If ceremony, etc., be the expression of love and obedience in the heart, God accepts it; if it take the place of love and duty, it is an abomination to God.

3. It is the path of Stumbling--verse 21.

By man's refusal to obey God he lays a path of disaster. God prophesies failure for those who reject the old path of faith and obedience.