

November 29, 2015

## Seek the Old Paths

*Pat Cowden*

Each year the President of the United States of America delivers a "State of the Union Address." Jeremiah made a similar address in Jeremiah 6:10-15. It was apparent that Israel had problems, and equally apparent that God alone has the solutions. What are the solutions that God proposes?

We are to ask for the old paths. This is a figure of speech that means we are seeking God's way and not our own. David in Psalm 23 mentions "paths of righteousness" which God leads us down. Why would we travel these paths? Because good shepherds know the best paths for their flocks to travel on.

Paul mentions that we are to seek out what pleases the Lord, (Ephesians 5:10, 17). This puts the emphasis on personally seeking a better, godlier direction for our lives. Jesus talks about this seldom traveled road (Matthew 7:13-14). He says this road is "strait" or challenging not "broad" or easy. This old path is counterintuitive to our thinking because we tend to gravitate towards the "path of least resistance." We must resist this temptation, disregard the criticism of being in the minority, and follow in the steps of our Savior. When we do we are in very "good" company.