

# The Old Paths

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## “The Gospel Of Christ”

Stan Adams, Hickory, NC

Since the gospel is declared to be, “*the power of God unto salvation*”, doesn’t it follow that all who live after the gospel will live lives that are powerful and effective in leading others to Christ? If there is one lesson that Christians need more than any other it is that our lives must match up with our profession. The greatest teaching tool in the world is the life of a faithful Christian. Notice a few scriptures:

**Matthew 5:13-16:** “*Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown down and trampled underfoot by men. Ye are the light of the world. a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

If our light is not glowing then how can we lead the lost out of darkness? Indeed, how can we see our way out of it?? How does one make sure his light will continue to shine? Is there a formula?

Can I protect my light from the devil and his agents who will try to extinguish it?

**Romans 12:1-2:** “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of*

*God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*”

**1 John 2:15-17:** “*Do not love the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*”

We must never be fooled, whenever we are not “different” from the world, our light grows dim or goes out completely! Those in the world cannot put our “light” out, unless we help them along! No matter how ungodly and disobedient people in the world become, “true lights” will continue to shine! Listen to Paul: “*only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.*” (Phil 1:27) Paul said the key was a life “*worthy of the Gospel.*” What kind of life is that? It is one built on valid information (Col.1:10; 2 Pet. 3:18). The key is applied knowledge! Has your light gone out?

### Editor’s Note:

The above article, and the article on the next page were written by our brother Stan Adams. Lord willing, he will be with us next week in a gospel meeting. We are excited and looking forward to his coming and being with us for the week. Please pay careful attention to his writing, and study it in light of what the Scriptures say and make sure it is so (Acts 17:11).

After reading this bulletin, make sure and take time this week to tell friends, family, and strangers about the gospel meeting that will go **September 8-13**, Lord willing. We plan on meeting at our regular times on Sunday, and then 7 pm Monday-Friday.

A young Christian packing his bag for a journey said to a friend, “I have nearly finished packing. All I have to put in are a guidebook, a lamp, a mirror, a microscope, a telescope, a volume of fine poetry, a few biographies, a package of old letters, a book of songs, a sword, a hammer, and a set of tools.”

“But you cannot put all that into your bag,” objected the friend. “Oh, yes,” said the Christian. “Here it is.” And he placed his Bible in the corner of the suitcase and closed the lid.

-Anonymous

“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16).

Are you praying daily for our work here at Caneyville? Are you constantly asking for God’s blessings on our elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, our elderly, the widows, the spiritually weak, and every brother and sister in Christ? We have a great and powerful tool in prayer. Use it!

# The Early Church

Stan Adams, Hickory, NC

**T**he early church was a growing church. The book of Acts is a written testimony to this fact. On the day of Pentecost (3,000), later we read of 5,000 men added, and then the word multitude is used along with daily additions. What caused the remarkable growth of the church during the first century, a time when no radios, televisions, or automobiles existed? Is it possible for the Church to grow that way today? God has made it possible for the Church to grow the same way today as it did in the first century. The "fields are still white unto harvest." Is it really true that times have changed, or have Christians changed? Is it possible for us to kill the growth of a local congregation? Times may have changed but sin is still sin. Perhaps, it is Christians who have changed. Let's consider that thought.

## Christians Are Not Zealous.

As one reads the book of Acts zeal is a dominant characteristic. These people had other things to do but they considered the kingdom the most important. They evidently believed what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33.

## Christians Are Worldly And Forget They Are To Be A Separate People.

When the light does not shine brightly then the "new life" is not clearly seen nor appealing. I really do not understand how some Christians can involve themselves in so many worldly activities and still claim to belong to Christ! It also seems as if some are oblivious to the fact that their ungodly behavior hinders those whom we try to reach, from obedience to the

Gospel. The Gospel is still powerful (Rom. 1:16), but how powerful are the saints?

## Christians Have The Attitude Of Trying To Be As Weird As Possible.

Separateness does not mean being as eccentric as possible. Some Christians can give the impression that serving the Lord is "such a chore". They have no joy, enthusiasm, nor peace. They may have knowledge but it is hidden and hampered by their behavior. The Pharisees had this problem. See Matthew 23 to see what Jesus thought.

## Christians Have No Evangelistic Zeal.

How many times are opportunities presented by the local congregations in the form of Gospel meetings? These are opportunities for people to come and hear the Truth. But sadly, these are also times when some brethren have the notion they can go on vacation. They do not ask others to come, nor do they come. Consequently, some saints feel meetings do no good.

## Christians Have No Knowledge.

If saints would give themselves over to knowing the Bible, I believe they could not help but be what God intended them to be. Israel

was destroyed for "lack of knowledge". We are commanded to study and activate the Word in our lives (2 Tim. 2:15; Gal. 5:22). Many Christians are functional illiterates in Bible knowledge.

## Christians Have No Fear.

When brethren fail to discipline one another, then it will not be long before words of admonition become empty threats. Just as a parent who always threatens but never follows through, will be mocked, so will the church that fails to follow through in disciplining the members. It is wonderful to speak the right thing and to stand for the right things, but we must also rebuke and discipline those who fail to submit to God, so that proper church growth can continue. Those who belong to the world and will not repent must be disciplined! They must be held accountable for their rebellion. Church growth can be killed by tolerance of sin in the lives of the saints.

## Conclusion

Are you contributing to THE growth of this congregation? Are you living properly, studying properly, and do you have an attitude that shows you are thrilled to belong to Jesus Christ? May we all consider what kind of salt, leaven and light we are, and what effect our acts have on the growth of the congregation here. Some need to repent. Are you one of them?

One way we spread the gospel.  
<http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com>



**I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!**

**Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.**

**Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY**

### Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study	-----	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	-----	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship	-----	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	-----	7:00 p.m.

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**"The Ancient Landmark"** Television Show airs on You Tube ([www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)) and Insight Cable, channel 6

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**"The Ancient Landmark"** Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-

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