

STAND – SEEK – SAY

JEREMIAH 6:16-17

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Introduction:

We began this year considering or pondering the path of our feet.

Proverbs 4:14-26

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. [15] Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. [16] For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. [17] For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. [18] But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. [19] The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

[20] My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. [21] Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. [22] For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

[23] Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. [24] Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. [25] Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. [26] Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

These instructions are twofold. The first consists of warnings about being entering the path of the wicked.

Note the advice: Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

Note also it is a path of darkness and those that are on that path stumble and that which they stumble over they don't even see.

The second set of instructions tells how to do well. It is not enough to avoid wickedness, we must do well.

In contrast to the dark path of the wicked, this path is a path of light. Because of the light the way is both safe and pleasant. They are guided by the Word of God and that is light to their feet.

Psalm 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

After giving these instructions he then gives them a choice to consider and to make.

Proverbs 4:26

Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

He tells them to ponder the path of their feet.

In our text the prophet Jeremiah writes of a path as well, he refers to it as the old paths and the good way.

Israel was often a disobedient nation. God sent prophets, like Jeremiah to preach and lead back Israel to God. Israel would not listen.

Today, the call is the same. God is calling us as Christians back to Himself.

Note three things from this passage that is a must as we ponder the path of our feet, and walk into a new year.

1. COMMAND

Jeremiah 6:16-17

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A. Stand

There is much in the Bible about standing.

Some are standing idle today.

Matthew 20:6

And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

Some are standing gazing.

Acts 1:11

Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

The Lord is standing and knocking at the door of men and womens hearts today.

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

One day some will be standing knocking.

Luke 13:23-30

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

[24] Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. [25] When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: [26] Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. [27] But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. [28] There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. [29] And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. [30] And, behold,

there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

But how are we to stand?

1 Cor. 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Ephes. 6:11-18

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14] Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15] And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: [18] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2 Thes. 2:15

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

B. Ask - for the old paths

Much effort is being made today to try something or to come up with something new and improved.

You cannot improve or the tried ways.

You cannot improve on the tested ways.

2. COMPELLING

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The sad truth is that many today know truth and know right and wrong, but it seems that many of those individuals are content to know right and truth but are not compelled to walk in truth.

It is not enough to avoid wickedness, we must do well.

A. Walk there in

The word walk has the idea of involvement or being active.

B. Hearken to the sound of the trumpet.

The watchmen (preachers) sounding the trumpet (the word of God).

3. COMFORT

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A. Rest for your souls.

It's interesting as we are walking we find rest.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

As we take the Lord's yoke upon us He gives us rest.

A yoke involved work. But as we work alongside our Savior, and learn of Him, we find rest for our souls.

4. CHOICE

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- A. We can choose to walk and hearken.
- B. We can refuse to walk and hearken.

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.