

## Going Forward by Going Back

By David Hersey

Jeremiah 6:16, Thus says the Lord: *“Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”* (NKJV)

We live in a progressive society. Advances are made in technology every day which enhance our lives and make us more productive with less physical effort. Many people strive to keep themselves abreast of the newest things coming out. The newest fashions, the latest cars, the best and the biggest and the most modern stuff is in high demand. We are a progressive people who strive to push ever forward and we live in a world that is ever changing from day to day.

Sadly, the progress we are making in the realm of religious matters does not seem to be keeping up with society as a whole. Our advancements in science and technology are resulting in God being pushed out of our lives to be replaced with worldly things. God is being expelled from our schools, voted out of our government and forgotten by our society.

In the religious sector of mankind, many today who still claim Jesus Christ as their savior do so according to their own wishes and ideas on how He should be served. What began in the first century as one church has evolved into literally thousands of them across the face of the earth, each with their own method of worship and service to God. Many people today worship God how they see fit. They serve God according to their own desires on how it should be done.

No one looking out into the world today can deny that Churches are divided, our society is degrading morally, we are killing millions of babies each year through abortion, our prisons are full, the entertainment that is piped into our homes is for the most part intolerable and at best indecent, our government is crooked. Our society is sinking into a morass of corruption and it is eating away at the very foundation of our beings. One would have to be blind to miss what is going on.

How do we fix it? What's the solution? How do we go forward from here? To answer this question, let's look at a real life example from the old testament of what a king, faced with the destruction of his nation did in order to move forward. Let us call to mind the great king Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz who was so evil that God was going to destroy Judah because of the things he did. But Hezekiah did right in the sight of the Lord and God repented of the destruction he was going to inflict on Judah, (Jeremiah 26:19), *“Did he [Hezekiah], not fear the Lord and seek the Lord's favor? And the Lord relented concerning the doom which He had pronounced against them.”* (NKJV). Hezekiah averted the impending destruction of Judah because he sought the favor of God. In 2 Kings 18:1-6 we learn that Hezekiah tore down the alters in the high places and got rid of all the idols. In verse 6 we read the following: *“For he [Hezekiah] held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses.”* (NKJV). Hezekiah was returning his nation to the commandments of Moses. He was moving forward by going back.

Moving on in 2 Chronicles 29 we read of Hezekiah's restoration of the temple which Ahaz, his father corrupted. The temple was repaired and cleansed. The sacrifices were resumed and temple worship according to the law of Moses returned to Judah. In 2 Chronicles 29:25 we read, *“And he [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the Lord by His prophets.”* Hezekiah was getting the layout for the temple worship from the commandments of prophets who had been dead for several centuries. Hezekiah was following the old paths as he moved his nation forward. It's a shame his predecessor did not follow in those footsteps. The doom that Hezekiah averted for Judah because of his righteousness was only postponed. The application we can make today is that if Hezekiah could return his nation to the favor of God by following the old paths, by returning to the commandments of God by His prophets, then we can too. If it worked for Hezekiah, it will work for us as well. We, like Hezekiah, can insure that we go forward as a nation and as the people of God by going back and seeking the old paths.

We need to go “BACK to the Bible”. This time we need to turn to the New Testament as the Old Testament was nailed to the cross. We need to go back to the examples we find of the church in the New Testament. Unity is found in doctrine taught by Jesus and the Apostles not distorting them with uninspired men's creeds and handbooks (Galatians 1:8). One Body found in Ephesians 4:4 eliminates denominationalism, the thought that one “church” is as good as another and the idea you can attend the church of YOUR choice. We need to preach the plan of salvation the way the BIBLE teaches it. We need to worship God the way God wants us to worship. Only then can we call ourselves the ONE church Christ died for.

## Things you should know about...

~~~~~

Men's Meeting January 20th @ 9am

~~~~~

**Our next potluck will be on February 11th**

~~~~~

Ladies Bible Study - The Crown  
Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

~~~~~

If you would like to help with communion preparation for 2024, please sign up on the list

~~~~~

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

|                    |                       |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Rhonda Gaynor 1/15 | Amie Allen 2/4        | Alexa Rohr 2/20    |
| Macy Bang 1/17     | Jessica Gaynor 2/6    | George Gaynor 2/22 |
| Gage Thompson 1/17 | Mckayah Musselman 2/7 |                    |

~~~~~

### Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	January 14, 2024 AM	January 14, 2024 PM	January 21, 2024 AM
Greeter	Brandon Fourman	Jerry Thompson	Dustin Desarro
Announcements	Tim Bang	John McGiffin	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Jason Bang	
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Jerry Thompson	Judah Gasper	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Tom Muter	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Rick Ferris	Chris McGiffin	Seth Arrell
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Jason Bang	Tom Muter	Jerry Thompson

**This week's Bible Verse**

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” Acts 5:42



**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Bible Studies currently being held
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - health & comfort
- \*Rena Morgan - encouragement & health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's
- \*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health issues
- \*Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- \*Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & comfort
- \*Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend, Jim) - health
- \*Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health - prostate cancer
- \*Lynn Thompson - health
- \*Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - chemo treatments, foot swelling & energy
- \*Josh Bang (Jason Bang's cousin) - stress related health issues and caring for wife/family
- \*Pamela Illinick - Stage 4 Kidney failure
- \*Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - health
- \*Brendan Fenton (Michelle Buckingham's nephew) - recovering from surgery

- \*Aubri Haguewood (Bang's granddaughter) - having dizzy spells & headaches
- \*Laura McGiffin - health
- \*Vanessa Collette (Amie Allen's friend) - looking for housing, going through a custody battle
- \*Family & friends of Jeff Wilhelm (friend of Duane Kemp) - grieving his passing
- \*Armain Cauhgey - (friend of Duane Kemp) - sick
- \*Crystal Edmonson (co-worker of Laura McGiffin) - her dad's health
- \*Andrea Barnes (co worker of Laura McGiffin) - her husband has RSV
- \*Stanley Cox (Phyllis Cox's nephew) - grieving the passing of his father
- \*Billy Jackson (Stephanie Bang's dad) - upcoming tests/CT scan

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.



**Attendance and Contribution Record**

Sunday, January 7		Wednesday, January 10	
Bible Classes	31	Bible Classes	27
AM Attendance	47	Contribution	\$1,281.01
PM Attendance	25		



**GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

January 14, 2024

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.