

EVERY-DAY RELIGION

By Keith Greer

“Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down, says the LORD. 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.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” {Jeremiah 6:15,16} Israel had no desire for the “old paths;” they wanted to walk according to their own desires. Genuine old-time religion involves:

An old book. *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: ‘If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.’” {Revelation 22:18,19}* This book was delivered once {Jude 3}; it needs no revisions or amendments. It is perfect and complete; we just have to obey its teachings.

An old church. *“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” {Matthew 16:18}*. The Lord promised to build His church, and it began on the Day of Pentecost. {Acts 2:1-4,47} He built only ONE church; all others were begun by men. {Ephesians 4:4-6}

An old foundation. *“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” {1 Corinthians 3:10,11}* The church’s foundation is Christ Jesus, *“...Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.” {Isaiah 28:16}*

An old head. *“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” {Ephesians 1:22,23}* He is the head and Savior of the body. {Ephesians 5:23} He is the only one who has a preeminent position, *“And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” {Colossians 1:18}*

An old name. *“Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” {Romans 16:16}* Why shouldn’t it be called by His name? He purchased it with His blood. {Acts 20:28} It is the pillar and ground of the truth. {1 Timothy 3:15}. It is the kingdom over which He rules. {Colossians 1:13} All other church names came from men, and they came later.

An old law of pardon. *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” {Acts 2:38}* Since the first century, when the church began, God has not changed its entrance requirements. People today, as then, must obey the gospel. When we study the book of Acts, we find the answer (hear—believe—repent—confess—be baptized). When one who is already a Christian, disobeys and falls, confession and prayer will return him to God’s fellowship. {Acts 8:22-24; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9}

This is the **old-time religion** that could save sinners then and can still save them today. Personally speaking, whenever a person comes to me and says "let me share something new with you," my attention gets peaked and warning bells go off in my head. Why? This book has been around for a long time and "no new things" have been revealed by God that I'm aware of. Dear reader, are you faithfully following the ONLY religion God has ordained? It may be old, but it's been tried, tested, and proven to be the right one for those who are willing to submit to Christ and be obedient to his teachings. Hands down I'll take it every time! ***