

ARE WE IN THE OLD PATHS?

Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein.—JEREMIAH VI., 16.

MY FRIENDS,

The history of the religious world, that is, of those who believe in the one Triune God, has been a continuous exhibition of faithfulness and unfaithfulness; and this one fact alone ought to convince men of their frailty, insincerity, and disposition to sin. With God there is only one standard of faith. He cares not in what casket that faith is borne, whether it be surrounded by the hallowed grandeur of a time-honored and singularly beautiful liturgy such as the Church of England enjoys, or the more rugged and simple forms of the sister churches which are thought to admit of a beneficial freedom, or in the Book of Common Prayer in use in the Reformed Church of England which at once gives you the beauties of the old with the freedom and elasticity of the new. God cares not what your form may be, if your heart be right, and your teaching scriptural. As I have said, the tendency of man is to err, to be unfaithful, to put himself into such a position as will admit of his gliding into the element he would occupy a place in. Like a ship waiting to be launched and held upon the ways by blocks, he is always ready of his own will to gravitate toward his natural condition of unbelief, if some plausible thought-hammer will only knock away the blocks that hold him. If we look at the church in the wilderness, we see one day a people bubbling over with religious zeal, singing and praising the God who delivered them from the Egyptians, and a little while after we find them launching off into the idolatry of Egypt and worshipping a golden calf. Then we find that God takes means to bring them to their religious senses and enables them to see the