

# “ANCIENT WORDS”

## INTRODUCTION

- I. One of the most beautiful hymns today is entitled “Ancient Words.”  
A. It was written by Lynn Deshazo in 1999.

### **THE LYRICS:**

*“Holy words long **preserved** for our walk in this **world**  
They resound with God’s own **heart**, O let the ancient words **impart**  
Words of life, words of **hope**; Give us strength, help us **cope**  
In this world where’er we **roam**, ancient words will guide us **home**.  
Holy words of our **faith**, handed down to this **age**  
Came to us through **sacrifice**; O heed the faithful words of **Christ!**  
Martyrs’ blood stains each **page**, they have died for this **faith**  
Hear them cry through the **years**, “Heed these words and hold them **dear!**”*

### **THE CHORUS:**

*Changing me and changing you We have come with open **hearts** O let the ancient words **impart**.*

- B. We may not know the history behind this hymn, but it’s message and it’s melody, are touching and reminds us of the enduring qualities of the word of God, the BIBLE.  
II. Now let’s begin by looking at some things that ARE ancient, including the word of God.

## DISCUSSION

### I. 1<sup>st</sup>, there ARE things in the world that are ANCIENT.

- A. Some old things that we see or possess are meaningful to us for sentimental reasons.  
1. They remind us of the past, as to how different things were long ago.  
2. They may have belonged to loved ones in generations past, and are now cherished.  
a. It might be some of grandma’s old jewelry, or an old plow belonging to grandpa.  
b. I have in my possession an old handsaw that a great uncle of mine (whom I never knew), used around 1915 to 1918, and it has a painted picture (painted by my mother) of a wagon approaching an old house, to depict my ancestors moving to Rule, Texas in 1900.
- B. BUT, all these old things are subject to ruin and decay.  
1. The law of thermodynamics says that anything new can wear out or decay.  
2. Old things often deteriorate, or they are destroyed by fire or flood, and will never be seen again. Cf Matt. 6:19-21

### II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, ancient things remind us of some BETTER THINGS of the past.

- A. God Himself is called “Ancient”, for He has always existed. Dan. 7:9,13
- B. Then, the teachings of the word are “ancient”, and never need changing.. Jer. 18:15; Prov. 22:28; 30:5-6; cf Rev. 22:18-19  
1. If we add to it, it would be too much; If we subtract from it, we have too little.  
2. We need to be careful to not confuse our human traditions (non essential) with the “ancient landmarks **God** has given.  
a. An old human tradition is that of using “hymn books” in our singing of hymns in the church, while **now** the words and music can be electronically produced on a large screen for all to see. Cf Matt. 15:1-3  
b. The only tradition we are to faithfully keep is that which by inspiration is handed down (“ancient landmarks”) GOD has handed down to us. 2 Thess. 2:15

- C. I have a book written about things in America in 1932, the year I was born.
1. It shows how the average cost of a new car was \$610, a new house for \$6515, a loaf of bread for 7 cents, a gallon of gas for a dime, and a gallon of milk for 43 cents.
  2. In many ways, things were BETTER in days gone by than they are today.
    - a. Remember when people did not need to lock their houses at night?
    - b. Remember when it was OK to talk about God, and to have prayer, IN SCHOOL?
    - c. Remember when women dressed modestly and did not expose 90% of their bodies?
    - d. When young people waited till marriage to have sex relations?
    - e. When homosexuality was a shameful thing?
    - f. When marijuana was not heard of, no one used drugs?
    - g. When abortion was virtually unheard of?
- B. But, ONE thing of value in times past, that is STILL valuable, the WORD OF GOD.
1. The WORD of God goes back to eternity before time began.
  2. God authored ALL the Bible through inspired men, from 2500 B.C. till 96 A.D.
  3. It contains the record of the **living** WORD of God in the person of Jesus. John 1:1-3
  4. The Bible contains the message of God in the **written** word, to save the lost from eternal death.
  5. The Bible is OLD, but it is also NEW.
    - a. It contains the old covenant, which has been replaced with the new. Heb. 8:13
    - b. It contains the written record of the past to remind us of what happens to those who reject God. 1 Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4
    - c. The NEW law is old in time (2000 years), but always NEW in application, and will endure until the end of the world. Matt. 24:35; 28:18-20
      - 1) Purification of our souls is by the everlasting word. 1 Pet. 1:22-25
      - 2) The word of the Lord is the BASIS for our faith, and the BASIS for our judgment in the last day. John 20:30-31; John 12:48

#### CONCLUSION

- I. What do the "ancient words" mean to you?
  - A. They will save you if you obey them. Heb. 5:8-9
  - B. They will condemn you if you reject it's teachings for something else.
    1. Some think they are being saved by the doctrines and practices of "men". Matt. 15:9; 7:21-23
    2. The word of the gospel requires genuine faith in God, repentance of sins, and baptism for the remission of sins. Acts 2:36-38, 47
- II. The opportunity for you to accept the word is extended at this time.

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