

ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS #15

“Remove Not The Ancient Landmark”

Our title is taken from a text in the Book of Wisdom...

Proverbs 22:28

Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.

Proverbs 22:28 NIV

Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your forefathers.

This Proverb restates a commandment God gave Israel hundreds of years earlier: It had to do with how God’s people would handle the inheritance of the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 19:14

You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to possess.

I want to look at the spiritual implications of these verses. But to do that we need to give you some background...

I. Understanding The Ancient Landmarks

A. Background

1. In Old Testament times, maps and fences were mostly unknown; the borders of nations, and even personal property lines were established by placing large stones on the borders, identifying where one’s property ended and another’s began.

2. Therefore, ‘to remove an ancient landmark’ was to deviate from what God had established through their forefathers. It was a form of theft.

3. Actually, to move or remove an ancient landmark was a form of theft.

a. If you wanted to take over a man's property to expand your own property, you would move the landmarks!

4. So these verses primarily refer to physical borders and property lines; but I want to show you how the principle behind this law has something to say to us today; so we need to look at...

B. The Spiritual Meaning of Boundaries and Landmarks

1. Bible scholars have agreed there is a spiritual application connected to things like borders and landmarks.

The Biblical Illustrator

The criminality of removing a physical landmark is small compared with the guilt of removing the landmarks of faith, which dishonors God and injures society.

Rev. Jeremiah Cox

Just as the Israelites had no right to move their neighbor's landmarks to take more for themselves we have no right to move the spiritual landmarks God has set. He has established boundaries in the church, and in society that are to be respected. Those who move these landmarks will be cursed.

a. Notice these teachers speak of things like the 'landmarks of faith' and 'spiritual landmarks'; to move or remove those things brings a curse.

2. That's from the Book of Deuteronomy, where Moses has the congregation pronounce curses on those who break God law; here are 2....

Deuteronomy 27:16-17

'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.'

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

(Notice: how sinful it is to move a landmark!_

3. Spiritually speaking, the 'ancient landmarks' refer to the things God has established through our forefathers that must not be removed.

4. Think of it this way: Why does a nation need borders? Why do our communities need property lines? The answer is that you cannot establish order in a society without borders and property lines.

- a. What does it mean when you see a 'city limits' sign?
- b. Why does someone put a fence around their property?

5. These 'boundaries' and landmarks establish legal jurisdictions.

Jurisdictions

The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

a. A sign that says "State Line" means you are entering a territory where the government of that state has jurisdiction.

b. A sign that says "City Limit" means that you are entering into a territory where the city government exercises authority.

c. The fence between your property and your neighbor's property defines where his authority ends and your authority begins.

6. We need physical borders, boundaries, and property lines to define the *limits* of authority. But many of God's people fail to realize that there are *spiritual* borders boundaries and property lines, because...

C. God Is All About Government

1. We see this verse on our Christmas cards but never stop to think of what it means.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...

- a. What 'government'? ALL government!

Romans 13:1-2

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

2. God has all authority; all earthly authority is delegated authority; all earthly authority is *limited* authority.

3. The Word of God tells us that God Himself has delegated authority to men in what we might call 'spheres' of government, and He has set landmarks and boundaries for each...

GOD'S SPHERES OF GOVERNMENT

SELF government
FAMILY government
CHURCH government
CIVIL government

a. Notice the ORDER of government and the limits.

4. God has laid down landmarks and boundaries, or jurisdictions, for each sphere of government.

a. These landmarks are revealed in God's law.

5. We just taught 2 messages on the Garden of Eden that demonstrate what we've said. God made man and set a boundary: He gave them freedom, self-government over all creation to do as they please, except for ONE THING.

6. God denied them the freedom to define good and evil for themselves.

II. More Examples of Moving the Ancient Landmarks

A. Gender: What Could Be Clearer?

1. What could be clearer than the ancient landmark about gender?

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

2. God set a very clear, most ancient landmark about male and female; then He gave a commandment against confusion...

Deuteronomy 22:5

A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.

3. The ancient landmarks of male and female have been in place for 6,000 years. But today, men are moving the ancient landmarks, and wreaking confusion the subject of gender. Here's something going on this month in our schools on...

Restrooms

Nicole Russell, The Daily Signal

Chicago Public Schools are now requiring schools in the district to ensure all restrooms are 'gender-neutral', erasing single-sex spaces for males and females alike.

On Nov. 27, Chicago Public School Tweet, November 27,2021:

In compliance with new federal guidelines, all CPS students and staff will have fair and equitable access to bathroom facilities that align with their gender identity. We will be providing all schools with updated signage that makes our bathrooms more inclusive. They will make it clear that all restrooms are open for use by anyone who feels comfortable.

Nicole Russell, The Daily Signal

This will be not only harmful to the safety and privacy of young people, it's also yet another disheartening decision to ignore biological differences between the sexes and to create an androgynous society.

(This affects over 340,000 students in the CPS system)

Nicole Russell, The Daily Signal

This new policy obliterates privacy and safety for both girls and boys, young women and young men. Single-sex restroom spaces are just not common sense. Imposing this policy by fiat on the entire district ensures the majority suffers for the sake of a tiny handful of transgender youth. It's not clear whether parents were polled or given a heads-up about this new policy beforehand.

Nicole Russell, The Daily Signal

So-called ‘social justice’ issues such as transgender bathrooms are growing in prominence even though the population of transgender students remains vanishingly small. In addition, while school administrations focus on ‘all-gender’ bathrooms, the real purpose of schools—namely, to educate—takes a back seat to social engineering.

4. This is a violation of God’s jurisdictional boundaries on several levels:

- a. It is a violation of God’s law (confusion)
- b. It is a violation of parental rights
- c. It is dereliction of duty of the real responsibility of the school
- d. Russell reports that according to recent statistics, Chicago Public

Schools only graduates 84% of its students, and only 26% of 11th graders are proficient in reading and math. Shouldn’t the school system put more emphasis and resources on helping Chicago students learn and less on changing bathroom signage?

5. What’s happening in Chicago is going on across the country where there is a violation of parental boundaries by school boards run by left-leaning school boards who place themselves above the parents in decision making.

- a. Many parents don’t realize that Marxist Socialists always see the children as the property of the state.

Adolf Hitler, 1933

“It is important to win over and train the youth in the service of a new ‘national state.’ When an opponent declares, ‘I will not come over to your side’, I calmly say, ‘Your child belongs to us already.... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time, they will know nothing else but this new community.”

6. This is not education; it is indoctrination. And the same Marxist Socialist agenda of governmental overreach is happening in Washington in regards to private property.

B. Removing the Ancient Landmarks in Civil Government (Politics)

1. We sometimes overlook the obvious implications of 2 of the 10 commandments.

Exodus 20:15,17

8th Commandment

"You shall not steal."

10th Commandment

You shall not covet...anything that is your neighbor's.

2. God Himself has ordained our right to own personal property! If He didn't, why give these commandments? But the current political party in power is run by Communist socialists who follow the teachings of...

Karl Marx

The right to hold private property is a crime against the state.

3. The same people who think they have a right to do away with gender; the same people who think they own your children, are the same people who see themselves as entitled to take away your money and redistribute it as they see fit.

a. And many Americans, including many stupid Christians, see no problem with it; we elected a man to 2 terms who said this...

President Barack Obama

"I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody."

(And that's what he did for 8 years...)

b. The party's next presidential candidate ran on the same idea:

Hillary Rodham Clinton

"We're going to take things away from you on behalf of the common good."

c. In his book 'God Versus Socialism, Dr. Joel McDurmon explains their worldview....

Dr. Joel McDurmon, God Versus Socialism

“Socialism is the belief that stealing is acceptable as long as another man or group of men says so. Socialism believes in theft by majority vote, or theft by a majority of representatives’ votes in Congress. Socialism is the belief that it’s OK to steal from your neighbor if you do it by means of the power of the government.”

c. Thank God American voters bounced Hillary on her behind back to her luxury multi-million-dollar mansions in Chappaqua, NY and Washington, D.C.

d. But we still have to live with Marxist-Socialists like Senator Bernie Sanders, a committed communist, who stays in power by making godlike pronouncements on a new set of fabricated rights our founding fathers never dreamed of.

Senator Bernie Sanders

“Health care must be recognized as a right, not a privilege. A college education should be a right, not a privilege. We need a revolution in the way that the United States funds higher education.”

4. Our country is now controlled by those who believe that our salvation will come from Communism instead of from God.

President Barack Obama

“Our individual salvation depends on our collective salvation.”

5. We are dealing with leaders who see themselves as our saviors! And their breathtaking abuse of political power, government corruption and overreach has many of us echoing the words of the prophet Job...

Job 24:1-2 NLT

"Why doesn't the Almighty bring the wicked to judgment? Why must the godly wait for Him in vain? Evil people steal land by moving the boundary markers. They steal livestock and put them in their own pastures.

6. The good new is that God IS already judging them, even as He did in the days of the prophet Hosea...

Hosea 5:10-12

The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out My wrath on them like water. Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked by human precept. Therefore I will be to Ephraim like a moth, and to the house of Judah like rottenness.

7. All these judgments have come upon because men are removing the ancient landmarks established by our founding fathers, who created the Constitution and Bill of Rights modeled after the Word of God, which limits civil government to its proper sphere!

C. America's Ancient Landmarks

1. Our founding documents guaranteed a man's freedom to private property and self-government under the law.

2. The ancient landmarks were established:

The Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

3. Our founding fathers laid the landmarks for a form of government based on biblical principles unmatched by any nation in human history except Israel.

Julius Ruechel

In this re-imagining of society, the herd is not the central pillar of society. The central pillar of society is the individual, the minority of one. From this perspective, the authority granted to government is only temporary, on loan by citizens, and can be withdrawn at any time.

Julius Ruechel

The Founding Fathers believed that the State should no longer have the authority to play the role of a shepherd, parent, or gold-giver and that we are not its children. Government was merely meant as a safeguard to step in when

free people are unable to defend their rights and freedoms against peers or hostile nations that step over the line. It was (and still is) a truly radical and revolutionary idea.

4. All this is beautifully articulated in the words of our 3rd President...

Thomas Jefferson

"A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned -- this is the sum of good government."

5. God has given us godly men from time to time who remind us of the ancient landmarks...

Ronald Reagan

Man is not free unless government is limited.

6. Our current crisis is the curse come upon us from those who have moved the ancient landmarks; they offer us change and prosperity if we will believe that big government can save us.

Julius Ruechel

In this radical re-imagining of the social contract, change and prosperity come from below, from the naturally evolving culture and the free choices of individuals, rather than being imposed by leaders from above. This makes every single individual wholly responsible for their own well-being rather than looking to the government to put its fingers on the scales on their behalf to deliver privilege and prosperity.

7. What made America great was the sense of personal responsibility for their condition; it was a democracy built on something called...

Meritocracy

A system, organization, or society in which people are chosen and moved into positions of success, power, and influence on the basis of their demonstrated abilities and merit.

a. In ancient times, Americans did not look to government for their well-being.

b. America grew great because Americans accepted personal responsibility for their personal situation.

c. Diligence is rewarded; laziness is punished. And it's biblical.

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

III. Close: Review

Theme

God, through our forefathers, has established jurisdictional boundaries and limits regarding the exercise of governmental authority and power.

To remove or redefine these boundaries and limits puts us in great peril, and brings a curse upon us as individuals and as a nation.

The 'ancient landmarks' must be maintained! If they are moved, they must be replaced!

The Biblical Illustrator

Loyalty to God as King forbids us from tampering with the ancient landmarks.

They are the ramparts of the Church. They are the foundations of all true happiness, and the men who have most faithfully stood by them, and most humbly paid homage to them, have been the men who have been the glory of the Church.

Closing Prayer

Title