

Backward or Forward? Jeremiah 7:23, 24

God spoke to His people through His prophet Jeremiah and laid before them the outcome of obedience and the outcome of walking in their own counsel and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, that they went backward and not forward! (Jeremiah 7:23, 24.)

Which way do we want to go, backward or forward?! What does it mean to go backward? What is involved in going forward?

I. What Does It Mean To Go Backward?

- A. As we can see in our text, God's people went backward when they walked in their own counsel and rejected God's counsel! (Job 12:13; Ephesians 1:11.)
- B. To go backward is to go back to what one gave themselves to before they came to Christ. (II Peter 1:9; 2:20-22.)
- C. To go backward is to lose any progress one has made in their development as a follower of Christ. (I Timothy 4:10.)
- D. To go backward is to take the path of least resistance that is wide and broad and that leads to destruction! (Matthew 7:13.)

II. What Does Going Forward Involve?

- A. To go forward one must forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead, as Paul did! (Philippians 3:13, 14.)
- B. In order to move forward one needs to free themselves from "Every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1.)
- C. Moving forward involves being focused on what makes us useful to the Master! (II Timothy 1:9; 2:21.)
- D. Moving forward involves fixing our HOPE not on things or relationships, but on the living God our Savior! (I Timothy 4:10.)