

Cracker Barrel and the Old Paths

On August 19, 2025, Cracker Barrel unveiled a new modernized logo, removing the nostalgic "Uncle Herschel" figure and leaning into a minimalist text design. Cracker Barrel's customers were not impressed with this change. The reaction triggered a significant drop in the stock market, with the company losing nearly \$100 million in value in under a week!

Responding to the public outcry, Cracker Barrel reaffirmed its commitment to "country hospitality" and honored its heritage by pledging that the beloved rocking chairs, peg games, and vintage items would remain. With mounting criticism, on August 26, 2025, the chain announced it would revert to the old logo. "Uncle Herschel" is coming back, along with the familiar sights and symbols that define Cracker Barrel. This is a powerful reminder that in some ways, success is linked back to tradition and authenticity.

This makes me think about the modern religious landscape. Many people are looking for a modern way to worship by appealing to what is currently popular. Some act as if things that have been done a certain way for a long time must be changed to appeal to the present-day values.

Jeremiah of old made the plea, *"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 6:16). The old paths are God's revealed will, but the problem today is that most people are NOT asking for that. When we demand a *"thus says the Lord"* and state we ought to determine *"where the good way is, And walk in it,"* many people respond like the people in Jeremiah's day. If not verbally, their actions are saying, *"We will not walk in it."*

Far more important than a restaurant updating their logo, is our response to God's divine pattern. Thankfully, there are still people willing to stand for the 'old way' of doing things. We should ask for the old paths about the church, its worship, work, the plan of salvation and how to live righteously. What about you? How will you respond to this old plea? Will you seek to change and modernize God's plan, or simply obey God and walk in the old paths?

- by Josh McCord

A Little Dating Advice for Singles

"Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish on him." (2 Samuel 14:25)

How much stock do you put into appearance? To some, it's the first (and only) thing they see, especially when looking for a mate. For them, Absalom would stand out as a good catch. His was wealthy, powerful, good looking, and apparently a smooth talker (15:1-6).

But you wouldn't want to date a man like Absalom. He was a rebellious, vengeful, murderous, lying, manipulating, prideful, power hungry young man whose lack of character ultimately led to his own premature death.

So to all the singles out there looking for a husband or wife, we encourage you to be discriminating and careful about who you date. Don't be deceived by externals. A good marriage is built on common faith in God and solid character. A marriage built on appearance alone is doomed to fail.

Father, please give wisdom and discernment to our singles who are looking for a mate!

- by David Maxson

Gratitude Makes Happiness

Most of our unhappiness is produced by the gross sin of ingratitude -- self pity is what it is often called. Anything we do not like, anything that is against our wishes, makes us miserable if we are consumed by selfishness. It is quite striking that many of those who were so miserable as to commit suicide were blessed with looks, talent, wealth and even fame. They "quit" on themselves and on life, not because no one needed them, but because they magnified their miseries and ignored their blessings.

The antidote to this kind of misery is to reverse the process. Forget yourself. Jesus said

"deny" yourself (Matthew 16:24). Help someone who needs some help. Magnify your blessings and remember that all your problems -- all of them -- are temporary. We were made for eternity! What a blessing. Thank God for the great hope we have in Jesus, and for the blessings of the common day!

- by **Jere E. Frost**

"Be No More Children"

After seeing an exciting basketball game on TV, he decides he'd like to be a professional basketball player. A few days later, after hearing of a daring rescue from a burning building, he is convinced he wants to be a fireman. Not long after that he learns about men going into outer space, and he is sure that he really would love to become an astronaut.

What in the world is wrong with this guy? Why can't he decide on a career course and stick with it? Why is he always changing his mind about important things? The answer is simple: he's a child! It is inherent in children to frequently change their minds. They may be firmly convinced of something one day, and ready to do the opposite the next day. We understand that this is their nature. They will (hopefully) outgrow this tendency. And, when they do, we will say that they have "matured".

There are some that are spiritual "babes". In fact, everyone is in that category upon first obeying the gospel. Unfortunately, some never grow past that point (2 Cor. 3:1-3; Heb. 5:12-14). These folks are forever troubled by something new or different that they hear. It might be something about our worship, or about the work of the church, or about a matter of morality (like divorce and remarriage), or ... you get the idea. These people can never be settled as to what they think about the important truths contained in God's word.

Let us put it as simply and directly as we can - GROW UP! Ephesians 4:14 urges us "that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine." You need to know what you believe, and you need to know why you believe it. If you hold a view, endorse a position, or would teach or recommend an "alternate view", you should have strong reasons for doing so. You should be ready to logically and rationally defend the position you espouse. If you can't do that, you're manifesting the fact that you are a spiritual child - immature - and you are likely to be "tossed to and fro" by whatever new thing comes along. GROW UP!

- by **Greg Gwin**