

ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

Text: Hebrews 8:4-5

INTRO: Man has always needed Divine guidance & God has never left him without a pattern. Jer. 10:23. Unfortunately, many of my brethren today are in the process of abandoning the pattern concept.

I. IN O.T. TIMES GOD DID NOT LEAVE HIS SERVANTS WITHOUT A PATTERN. Let us note a few examples.

A. Noah's ark. Gen. 6:14-16. materials, size, use, etc.

B. In Mosaical times.

1. The tabernacle,

Ex 25:8-9, And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

2. The temple. 1 CHRONICLES 28:11-13--

Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat; & the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things; also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD.

II. THIS PRINCIPLE IS STILL VALID TODAY.

A. The Hebrew writer reminds us in Heb 8:4-5 how important it is for God's servants to follow the pattern given them.

B. Stephen also looks back at the patterns God gave in times past, to view the importance of following His instructions.

Acts 7:44-47, "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen, which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Joshua into the land possessed by the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of David, who found favor before God & asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built Him a house.

- C. It was of our age & God's spiritual temple, the church, that Ezekiel spoke in chapters 40-48 in figurative language.

Ezek 43:10-11. "Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; & let them measure the pattern. And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits & its entrances, its entire design & all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them.

III. SOME DETAILS REGARDING THE N.T. PATTERN.

- A. Paul states that his conversion is a pattern for all who are willing to be saved.

I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.
(1 Tim 1:16).

H-B-R-B Acts 9:1-18; 22:6-16

NOTE: This pattern is used extensively, repeatedly throughout the book of Acts.

- B. The teachings & practices of the apostles constituted a pattern for other Christians to follow.

Brethren, join in following my example & note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. (Phil 3:17)

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me... (2 Tim 1:13)

C. N.T. churches under apostolic leadership are a pattern we would do well to follow.

1 Thess 1:6-7, And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

1. The N.T. record contains a pattern for the organization of Christ's church. Acts 12:24; Titus 1:5
2. It contains a pattern for the worship. Acts 2:42; 20:7; Col. 3:16.
3. It contains a pattern for the work of the church. Teaching the lost, edifying the saved, providing for needy saints.

D. Christians should conduct themselves so as to serve as a pattern that others can safely follow.

1. Preachers.

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example of the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim 4:12).

In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility. (Titus 2:7).

2. Elders. Not as being lords over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock (1 Pet 5:3)

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. (Heb 13:7).

3. All Christians. Matt. 5:16

La Porte, TX, December, 1982

Exton, PA, June 24, 1984

Exton, PA, March 10, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, April 6, 1997

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 17, 1998

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 21, 2002