

## PAUL -- A PATTERN

Text: 1 Timothy 1:16

INTRO: God has not left us without guidance. Paul shows that God has provided a pattern to which we are to conform.

### I. PAUL'S CONVERSION IS A PATTERN FOR ALL WHO SEEK ETERNAL LIFE.

A. If Paul could be saved, ANYBODY can be saved.

1. A good friend's description.

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. (Acts 9:1-2)

2. His own description. READ I TIM. 1:13-15.

B. ANYBODY can be saved the same way Paul was.

Acts 22:6-10, 16

### II. THE TEACHINGS & PRACTICES OF PAUL & OTHER INSPIRED MEN CONSTITUTE A PATTERN FOR NT 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, in faith & love which are in Christ Jesus.  
(2 Tim. 1:13)

NOTE: If a teaching or practice is Scriptural, it can be described in Scriptural terms.

### III. NT CHURCHES UNDER APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP ARE A PATTERN CHURCHES SHOULD FOLLOW TODAY.

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. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. (1 Thess. 1:6-8).

A. The NT record contains a pattern for the organization of Christ's church. Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:1-5

B. It contains the pattern for the worship of the church. Acts 2:42; 20:7; Col. 3:16

C. It contains the pattern for the work of the church: preach the gospel, edify the saints, assist needy saints.

#### IV. ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SERVE AS A PATTERN THAT OTHERS CAN SAFELY FOLLOW.

A. 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).

B. Elders. 1 Pet. 5:3; Heb. 13:7

C. All disciples. Matt. 5:16

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 20, 2000

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 25, 2001

Waterville, ME, December 21, 2001 (meeting)

South Loop, Crockett, TX, May 6, 2002 (meeting)

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, May 13, 2002 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 8, 2005