

## PURPOSES IN PATTERNS

Text: Acts 7:44

INTRO: From time to time we consider lessons concerning God's pattern for the N.T. church. In this study, we want to go behind the pattern that we may be assured that God has reasons for commanding the things He commands, & purposes in His patterns.

### I. GOD HAS NEVER LEFT HIS SERVANTS WITHOUT DIVINE INSTRUCTIONS--A PATTERN TO LIVE BY.

- A. Adam & Eve, Gen 1:27-28; 2:15-17.
- B. Noah. Gen 6:14-22
- C. Moses. EX 25:9, 40
- D. David & Solomon. READ I CHRON 28:11-12
- E. God's servants today. N.T. IS the pattern.

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

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

F. The fact that there is a pattern underscores the need for us to live by God's instructions. Deut 4:2; Rev 22:18-19

### II. GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR ALL THAT HE COMMANDS.

A. In EX 25-27 God gave Moses a detailed pattern for the tabernacle, its furniture, etc. Moses could not possibly have comprehended the complete significance of every detail of that pattern, but he had enough faith to know God's reasons were sufficient. Moses did as God commanded. READ EX 40:16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29.

1. Suppose Moses had begun to change God's instructions to suit human reasoning:

- a. Might say, I see no need for this veil. Just think how impressive it would be if the people could all watch as the high priest makes atonement for their sins.

b. Might reason, I see no purpose for all this blood. Too gory. We will substitute rose petals. I don't see what difference it would make.

2. But each of the things God commanded was significant. God had a reason for what was commanded, a purpose behind the pattern.  
READ HEBREWS 8:1-5; 10:19-22.

B. A careful study of the N.T. pattern may help us understand why God commanded certain things of us. For instance, 1 Cor 16:1-2.

1. Some have read this passage & concluded that God is interested in raising money. They seek to improve on His methods with pie sales, car washes raffles, selling of instructions & services & indiscriminate begging. Human reasoning says, If we can raise enough money we can convert the world. The dreamer never stops to ask, "Convert them to what?".

2. Truth is God is not overly interested in raising money. He is interested in raising men. Eph 4:28.

a. Thief is to quit stealing. But this is not enough. Could do that & still be a bum.

b. Work with hands. Now he has been raised from the level of a thief, beyond the level of a bum, to a productive member of society.

c. That he may have to give to the needy. God is in the business of raising men.

d. God wants His servants to be like Him. But till we can learn to give & love it, we are not much like our heavenly Father.

e. Also, God wants to bless us abundantly, but the law of sowing & reaping is such that before we can reap God's richest blessings, we must sow to the Spirit.  
Gal 6:7-10.

C. In some instances we may not be able to determine why the pattern calls for certain actions. But one thing we can do. Like Moses, we can respect & obey God's instructions. We can follow the pattern for the work, the worship, the organization of the church, & in our lives as individuals, we can serve God faithfully. We can be assured that whatever God has revealed for us to follow, it is for our good always.

And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. (Deut 6:24).

La Porte, TX, August 28, 1977

La Porte, TX, January 2, 1983

Exton, PA, May 11, 1986

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 27, 1992

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