

Gospel POWER



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

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Building According To The Pattern

David A. Cox

All will admit that seamstresses and carpenters need a reliable pattern or blue print to make or build by. Not only is this true in the physical realm, but is of eternal importance in the spiritual realm. Jeremiah said, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Man is not to go out on his own to try to please God, but is to look to the God's divine pattern in God's word.

As we think about building according to God's pattern, we are reminded of Moses when he was about to build the tabernacle. He was admonished "to build all things according to the pattern" (Exodus 25:40). The Hebrew writer reminds the New Testament Christians to take heed and build according to the pattern as Moses did in the Old Testament (Hebrews 8:4-5). So as Moses followed the instructions of God, we too should heed the instructions God has given to us in His word and "build according to the pattern."

We will be building according to the pattern as we look to the word of God and continue steadfastly in the things that are either commanded, necessarily inferred, or examples. Those who follow the same pattern or blue print will produce the same product, but if one alters the pattern or blueprint, the products may be similar, but not alike. In the spiritual realm it is the

same way. If we are following the word of God and not altering it in any way, then the way in which we serve God will be the same as the New Testament Christians.

In thinking about this let us notice what the pattern is for the worship of the church.

Singing: We see that the church sang (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 2:12; 1 Corinthians 14:15; etc.). So as we assemble together in worship to God we simply sing as the pattern says. We do not play or perform, but together we lift up our voices in song.

Giving: We see that the church was commanded to give (1 Corinthians 16:2). This giving was to be done when they gathered together on the first day of the week. Giving was to be as every man prospered, purposed, and was to be given cheerfully (1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Prayer: We see that the pattern for worship in the New Testament church involved prayer (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 4:16; Colossians 1:9; Philippians 4:6). Making our requests and petitions to the Lord is to be a continual state of mind and is very much a part of the worship of the New Testament church and the same will be today of a church following the New Testament pattern (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

The Lord's Supper (Communion): We see the pattern for partaking of the Lord's supper in the New Testament church (1 Corinthians 10:16) and that it is to be done on the "first day of the week" (Acts 20:7). It was taken in remembrance of the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-30). The Lord's death is to be remembered every first day of the week in this memorial supper that He instituted (Luke 22:1,18-20). The Lord's supper is not just a rite that is done on special occasions, or once a quarter or once a year, but every first day of the week.

Preaching: When the church assembled together for worship, the gospel was preached to convict and encourage them (Acts 20:7; 18:11). This again is important for a church that is following the New Testament pattern. Time is not to be spent in politics and social issues, but in "preaching Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

There is a pattern for worship in the New Testament church. If it is changed based upon what I want or like, then I fail to be following the pattern of the New Testament church and I am not a part of a New Testament church.

The same could be said of the other patterns concerning the New Testament church; the membership of the church (Acts 2:38, 47; Galatians 3:26-27); the organization of the New Testament church (Acts 14:23; Philippians 1:1; Ephesians 4:11); the name; the foundation; etc. We must understand that there is a pattern in the word of God for those that will be New Testament Christians. Let us then resolve to look to the word of God and follow the pattern for New Testament Christianity. Then at the judgement we can hear the Lord say "well done" or as is said of Moses he "was faithful" (Hebrews 3:5).

**Remember Our
Bible Class Periods**

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

"If We Love- We Will Obey"

Richie Thetford

In the family relationship children who love their parents will obey their parents. Children that purposely disobey their parents don't love them as they should. Children are commanded to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1), and they will gladly do so when they truly love them. The same is true in the realm of religion. When one says that they "love" Jesus then they will show that love through obedience to Him.

Jesus' Instructions

In John 13:34-35 Jesus said: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Jesus taught that man **must** love one another to be accepted by Him. In these two verses He showed that in three ways: 1) By a command: "That ye love one another". We have no option when it comes to love if we are to practice true Christianity. We must love one another. 2) By an example: "As I loved you, that ye also love one another." Jesus showed us what love is all about through the life He lived. He loved us so much that He died for us. We must also show and practice this kind of sincere love for our brethren. 3) By necessary inference: "By this shall all men **know** that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." When we love one another the way Jesus expects us to, then others will **know** that we are His disciples.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

We have heard the old saying that "actions speak louder than words". This is absolutely true. Lip service will not get an individual very far; it certainly did not impress Jesus as He called the Pharisees hypocrites saying: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is

far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt hew 15:8-9). Jesus **knew** that if they truly loved Him then their actions proving so would follow. But what happened? Their heart was not set on following Jesus but after the commandments of men. Does this sound familiar? Many today say they “**love**” Jesus, yet do not do as He says, but will follow the doctrines and commandments of men!

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). This is especially important to understand in view of the fact that Jesus also said: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Many precious souls are going to be lost because they did not **obey** the commandments of Jesus. The apostle Paul addressed this in his second Thessalonian letter when he stated: “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). It would sure seem to me that when one says that they “love” Jesus then they would **want** to do everything that Jesus asks them to do. Our eternal destiny depends on what we **do** with our life while we live on this earth.

Let Us Abide In The Love Of Jesus

In John 15:10 Jesus said: “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.” The only way that we can abide in Christ is to do what He has asked of us. Do you really “love” Jesus Christ? If so, then you will obey Him, knowing that it is only through Him that you will receive eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:9). If you have not obeyed Jesus’ command to be baptized (John 3:5), then you must ask yourself “Do I really love Jesus?” Remember, love is demonstrated through the **action** of obedience.

~via *The Beacon*, Clarksville, Indiana.

Two Evils

Billy Norris

“For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

When people forsake the Lord, they commit a grievous evil. They choose to separate themselves from the Lord, the “fountain of living waters.” When certain disciples of Christ turned back and walked with Him no mor, He asked His apostles, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’” (John 6:67-68). Those who choose to separate themselves from the Lord, will be separated forever. “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

There is a second evil. Those who forsake God and His way provide their own way, but it is inevitably a way of failure. In vain they work to hew their cisterns – “cisterns that can hold no water.” The reason is simple: “...the way of man is not in himself...” (Jeremiah 10:23).

~via *Gospel Guide*, Vol. 32 No. 9

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Millinea Word* continues at home is at home and not able to be out ... **Mary Best** recieved a good report from the biopsy done Monday .. **Hoyt “Coon” Hammond** came home from the hospital on Wednesday afternoon. The reports from his test were good .. **Robyn Goode** was sick and not able to be at

Bible study Wednesday night ... **Freda McConnell's father, Alton Wray**, is in the ECM hospital in Florence with pneumonia ... **Glenda Phillips' mother, Eula Pearl Green**, recieved a good report from her doctor this week. They determined her back problems are due to infection and inflamation... Remember **Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson**, who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia .. **Helen Trousdale and Gurtie Snoddy's neice, Martha Henson**, who is battling cancer ... **Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton**, who is continuing treatments for her cancer... **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, who is continuing her treatments for her cancer ... Also remember **Mattie Blanche Word** who continues at home and is not able to be out... **Aldeen Noles** who is not able to be out ... Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home ... **Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ... **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for communication group two to meet. If you are in group two, plan to attend this meeting tonight after our service.

SONG SERVICE: Tonight we will have our monthly song service. **Mark McIntyre** will be directing the service. Make your plans to be present as we sing songs of praise to God.

SONG PRACTICE: We will be meeting this afternoon at 5:15 to let our young boys lead some songs and to sing some new songs that we want to learn to sing. If it is possible, please come to be with us.

NEW BABY: **Allen & Sheila Moore** are the proud grandparents of a baby girl, **Callie Elizabeth Grisham**. She was born on Tuesday morning in Athens. She weighed 8 lbs. and 1 oz. She is now at home with her parents **Petey and Dana Grisham** and her big brother **Morgan**. We rejoice with them.

Gospel POWER

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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