

Is The New Testament Our Pattern?

Introduction:

- A. Athens Clay Pullias, President of David Lipscomb College, wrote a tract entitled, "Where There Is No Pattern." He contended the institutional issues were over areas where there is no divine pattern.
- B. Proponents of fellowship with those in error have followed this plan to its logical conclusion. -
"Nowhere, nowhere, do I find a consistent diagram or blueprint of what life should be or what the church should be" (J.P. Sanders, **Restoration Review** [March, 1967]. 51).
- C. Is the New Testament a binding pattern for Christians today?
 - I. Paul declared it is a pattern.
 - A. 2 Timothy 1:13 ("form": "an example, pattern.... the pattern to be placed before one to be held fast and copied, model...." - Thayer)
 - B. Hebrews 8:5; cf. Exodus 25:8-9,40; 39:42-43; 40:34-35
 - II. He told us what this pattern is. - 2 Timothy 1:13
 - A. "sound words": "to be well, to be in good health.... true and incorrupt doctrine" (Thayer)
 - 1. true - John 17:17; Romans 3:3-4
 - 2. incorrupt - Galatians 1:6-9; e.g., It takes less than 1% poison in good meal to make rat poison.
 - B. "which thou hast heard of me" - Ephesians 3:1-6
 - C. Thus, the New Testament pattern on any subject is the sum total of New Testament teaching on that subject. - Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - III. Paul told us our responsibility to the pattern. - 2 Timothy 1:13
 - A. "Hold fast"
 - 1. definition: "keep" (Thayer); "retain" (NASB); "steadfast adherence" (Vine)
 - 2. example - Genesis 6:14-16,22; 7:1
 - 3. application - Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9
 - B. "in faith" - 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17
 - C. "and love" - Ephesians 4:15

Conclusion:

- A. Tell about Dad as a child sawing rafters for Grandpa Brewer. He threw away the original pattern and used each subsequent rafter he sawed as a pattern. The last few rafters were unusable.
- B. We must strictly conform to the divine pattern!