



Pattern Theology

The plea of churches of Christ today is to restore New Testament Christianity into the lives of as many as will receive the gospel message. It is not sufficient to merely preach the gospel, without expecting those who claim to believe it to restore to their lives the truth that is contained within that gospel. To this end, the churches of Christ preach and teach that the gospel contains all of the information that we need to do this (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:17). This revealed information constitutes a pattern whereby those that conform to it and abide by it restore New Testament Christianity into their life. It is with this pattern that we are concerned in this particular study.

There are those today who say that the New Testament contains no such pattern and in so affirming, also must affirm the impossibility of restoration. If there is no pattern, then certainly one cannot restore New Testament Christianity. However, if the New Testament does contain such a pattern, then not only is restoration of New Testament Christianity possible, we must restore it to be a New Testament Christian. Hence, the plea of the churches of Christ today rests upon this one pivotal question; namely, does the New Testament contain a pattern of information, whereby when we conform to that pattern we have restored New Testament Christianity?

Jesus tells us that there is a pattern. In explaining the Parable Of The Sower, Jesus says, "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11). From examining this parable we take Jesus to mean that the proverbial seed refers to God's word, and that the word of God, as illustrated within the parable, has the properties of a seed. Just what are the properties of a seed? We recognize that a seed contains everything within it to restore the plant from which it came. There is

a pattern within a seed which nature follows to restore from that seed a living and breathing organism. We don't expect that a seed with the pattern of an apple tree would restore an orange tree, and vice versa. We expect a seed that contains the pattern of an apple tree, when that pattern is followed by nature, to restore an apple tree. So is the word of God. When individuals follow God's word, restoring to life out of that word what God put into it, they will find themselves conforming to a pattern that will create what God desires it to create, namely, a Christian. In so doing, they will find that they have restored what God placed into His word. With such, God will be pleased.

The opposite of this is that when we neglect the word of God in such a way so as to remove part of God's pattern or even to add other things to God's pattern, we will not get what God desires and God will not be pleased. One of the lessons that we learn in this regard comes from Cain and Abel. We remember the story. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a shepherd. Cain offered in worship to God from the fruit of the ground, but Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock. God had respect toward Abel's worship, but God was not pleased with the worship of Cain (Genesis 4:1-5). Why was it that God was pleased with Abel's worship, but not with Cain's? The book of Hebrews helps us to understand the answer. Hebrews 11:4 states, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." 1 John 3:12 also helps us to understand; this passage says that Cain's works were evil, but Abel's were righteous. How could Abel's works be righteous? Had not Abel sinned and fallen from God? How could Abel present a work of righteousness before God? We must con-

Pattern Theology (cont.)

clude that God instructed Abel in how to please Him. Abel heard God's word and presented that offering by faith, for faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). It was thus that Abel had a pattern from God. No doubt, Cain had been told of this same pattern; Cain simply did not abide by it. By not abiding by it, Cain offered worship that was according to his own righteousness and not pleasing to God. We learn from this not only that Abel followed a pattern, but also that fallen man needs a pattern so as not to present to God a righteousness of his own.

To illustrate this further, we turn to Adam and Eve. Prior to Adam and Eve's fall, man was in about as patternless a state as man could ever be. There was but one law by which to abide, and as long as man abode by that law, he could do any other thing he wanted to do and live forever and never be displeasing to God. Once, however, man fell, man no longer could please God with just any behavior. It became necessary for God to tell man what to do in order for man to please God. This necessitated God's creation and delivery of a pattern to man. This is illustrated for us in Adam's attempt to clothe himself after the fall. Standing naked before God he attempted to cover himself and woefully failed. God,

however, made coats out of animal skins and thus covered man's nakedness and established the divine pattern for so doing. In this pattern we see man's dependence upon God for righteousness. When we follow God's pattern for that righteousness, man is covered. Without it, man stands naked.

Man's failures at his own coverings transfer to his attempts at worship as well. We have already illustrated this in the story of Cain and Abel. Because man could not approach God with a righteousness of his own, this necessitated God delivering a pattern for worship. Fallen man cannot present worship to God without some kind of God given pattern of worship. Since that time it has been universally true that when man by faith presents the pattern of worship that God has given, man lives within God's righteousness. However, should man step outside of that pattern and act on his own in worship to God, man creates a righteousness after his own pattern and not after God's pattern. In so creating his own pattern, man can never truly restore God's order of things. However, if man humbles himself, goes back to the pattern of God, and follows that pattern, beautiful restoration occurs. This is true in matters concerning worship, salvation, the organization of the church, the behavior of Chris-

tians, and many other things whereby we, as man, must approach God.

Today, the blood of Christ has dedicated the pattern of things which God has given us to approach Him (Hebrews 9:23, 24). This means that the pattern is pure and holy and that when one follows it in faith, one can approach God in purity and holiness with boldness (Hebrews 10:19-22). When we so follow the pattern we will restore the things God wishes for us to restore in our lives. When we fail to follow that pattern, we do err and like Cain, do that which is evil. Let us not be about the business of approaching God based upon a righteousness of our own, but let us hold the pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13) and thereby approach God in His righteousness.

Kevin Cauley

Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 3/7/04

Morning	The Preacher's Greatest
Scripture	Lamentations 2:11-19
Evening	Asian Churches — Ephesus
Scripture	Revelation 2:1-7
Sunday Morning Bible Study	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	How To Study the Bible

Weekly Record

Week of 2/29/04

Sunday Class	62
Sunday A.M.	79
Sunday P.M.	56
Wednesday	54
Contribution	\$1950.50
Budget	\$1760.00

Money - Servant or Master?

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Paul exhorted young Timothy: *"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."* (ESV)

In the aftermath of the sinking of the ill-fated Titanic, reports noted that **eleven millionaires** had been among the hundreds on board who went to a watery grave in April 1912. Their combined wealth to-

taled nearly **two hundred million dollars**. Yet if these millionaires could have sent a message to the living about the most important things in life, **not one would have mentioned money**.

Newspapers also reported that Major A.H. Peuchen of Toronto, who was a survivor of the tragedy, had left more than three hundred thousand dollars in money, jewelry, and securities in his cabin. He started back for the box when evacuation efforts began, but then thought an instant and quickly turned away. Later he said, **"The money seemed a mockery at that time - I picked up three oranges instead."**

Money is intended to serve us, not to rule us!

Margeurite Jackson, an Indianapo-

lis widow, was ruled by her wealth. She lived in constant fear that her money would be stolen. When she died, more than five million dollars was found in her home! The money, one report concluded, **"had brought Mrs. Jackson nothing but a life of private terror."**

How are **you** regarding money today? Is it a **tool**, or a **crutch**? A **prison**, or a **key**?

Let us regard money as the Proverb writer did (Prov. 23:5) and follow our Lord's directive concerning our **"treasures"** (Mt. 6:19-20).

Mike Riley
El Paso, Texas

Kevin's Korner

What we lacked in rain in February, we have already made up in March! We have had a few soggy days, but we have also had some beautiful Spring days this past week as well. Our God is an awesome God. He gives us the sunshine; He gives us the rain. We can't appreciate the one without the other, and both are appreciated! Thank you Father, for the sunshine and the rain.

We rejoice that several received new Bibles this past week. It is a joy to get a new Bible and it tickles me to see those who got their Bibles excited about it. It is my prayer that those new Bibles will NOT stay new! I hope that the people who now own those new Bibles read them, study them, and wear them out for the sake of Christ. How about you, dear reader? What condition is your Bible in?

I want you to put on your Calendar the day of Tuesday, March 16th, especially if you are a young lady in our congregation. On this particular day, at 3:30 in the afternoon, at the Berryville Community Center, Miss Arkansas will be coming to speak. I believe that this could be a great moment for our young ladies to be encouraged. I am planning on being there myself. I hope that you make your plans to come hear what she has to say as well.

I have received quite a positive response from the tract that we printed here on the sufferings of Christ. Several have asked me if I have seen the movie and I told them that I had. In response I usually give them one of the tracts and people are reading them. All of the ones that we originally set out in the foyer are gone. I printed up a few more and we can start using those soon too. Take a few of these with you and put them in

your car or office, and anytime someone mentions the movie, just give them one of the tracts. They will appreciate it. People really want to know more.

We also have just a few of the Voice of Truth Internationals in the back left. If you want to give one of those to someone, people appreciate those booklets too.

Elders:

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn
Quigley

Deacons:

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,
Rusty Windle.

Preacher:

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- We express our sympathies to Ann Enskov and her family in the passing of her mother, Mary Elizabeth Bigham. Services were yesterday.
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Michael Collins, Jimmy Forehand, Brian Guess, Hewetta Hand, Hulen Penn, Chris Pinkley.
- Several had colds this week as well: Austin Cauley, Lucille Forehand, Charlene Pinkley.
- Please remember our shutins: Curtis and Opal Hull; Edith Mischler, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts.
- I visited with the Hulls this past week and they seemed in good spirits. Their 69th wedding anniversary is March 9th. I know they would appreciate a card or note.
- The youth devotional has been moved to the third Sunday night of the month.
- Our monthly men's breakfast will be this coming Saturday. Please make your plans to attend.
- Our friends and family day for 2004 is only three months away. Now is the time to have people put this event on their calendars. Are you inviting? I will have some brochures to hand out soon.
- Our elders and deacons meeting has been moved to the first Sunday of the month. That's tonight! If you have anything that needs to be discussed, please let one of them know.
- I heard a rumor that some of Dan and Hewetta Hand's family is moving back to Berryville. The Hands are excited about this. We are excited with them! Its great to hear of families reuniting with one another.
- Our singing at the nursing home last week was great! You are precious.
- The pantry item for this week is toilet bowl cleaner.

Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	March 7th, 2004	March 14th, 2004
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Matt Bassing
Scripture Reading:	Dan Hand	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Dan Hand
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture Reading:	Matt Bassing	Bob Moore
Lord's Table	Brent Stevens	Dale Pinkley
	Larry Elliott	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Ken Smith
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	Bill Fort	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Rusty Windle	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.