

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sept 23, 2012



GOD HAS A PATTERN

by Billy Bland

"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it]" (Exodus 25:9).

"And look that thou make [them] after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount" (Exodus 25:40).

"And this work of the candlestick [was of] beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, [was] beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick" (Numbers 8:4).

"Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13 American Standard Version).

Reader friend, are you aware of the fact that God has never left man to his own directions? Did you know that God has always told man how he is to live and worship God? Sadly many have the misconception that it really doesn't matter how man worships God, just so long as he is sincere. In effect, this is saying God doesn't have a pattern for us to follow. In such "reasoning" man becomes his own standard. However, Jeremiah in the long ago stated: "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Likewise, the Proverb writer penned the following words: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Thank God that He has given us a pattern and hasn't left us to grope in the darkness.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

VISITORS, WELCOME!

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

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Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

Man, however, must recognize that God has a pattern (a blue print), for us to follow.

A PATTERN UNDER THE OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD

There are many examples where God had a pattern for mankind during the Old testament age. Only a few of them will here be noted.

God gave Noah a blue print or pattern for constructing the ark. He told Noah the type of wood to be used, the dimensions of the ark as well as the particulars of the ark. "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this [is the fashion] which thou shalt make it [of]: The length of the ark [shall be] three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; [with] lower, second, and third [stories] shalt thou make it" (Genesis 6:14-16). Noah wasn't left to his own discretion. Neither was Noah to deviate from the pattern in any fashion. Noah was faithful to God's word and consequently he and his family were spared from the flood. "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he" (Genesis 6:22).

God also gave Moses a pattern for the Tabernacle (house of worship). In the passages quoted at the beginning of this article one will notice that God instructed Moses to make all things according to the pattern. In like fashion the Hebrew writer stated: "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount" (Hebrews 8:5).

A PATTERN FOR US TODAY

The church of Christ was not accidently started. God did not ask man to build Him a church. Instead Jesus Christ build the church and man should not erect one in competition to it. Just as God had a pattern during Old Testament times, He likewise has a pattern for us today. This pattern is God's word - the Bible. One can identify the Lord's church by going to the pattern and noting the marks or characteristics of Christ's church.

First, there is the builder of the church—Jesus Christ. Jesus said: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus built His church in the first century. Note carefully that this is hundreds of years before denominations ever appeared.

Another identifying mark of the lord's church is that it was established in the city of Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah prophesied that the Lord's house would be established in the last days and that out of Zion would go forth the law and the word of the Lord...

from Jerusalem (see Isaiah 2:2-3). This was fulfilled in Acts chapter two.

The third identifying mark is the worship of the church. Jesus said: "God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Did you notice the word "must"? God has regulated how we are to worship Him. Again, man must not deviate from the pattern. In the New Testament one reads of five acts of worship. They are: (1) Prayer I Thess. 5:17; (2) Singing (without mechanical instruments of music), Eph. 5:19; (3) The Lord's Supper Acts 20:7; (4) Giving I Cor. 16:1-2; (5) and the teaching or preaching of God's word Acts 20:7. These can be done in the Lord's name (Col. 3:17). They are in God's pattern. Again man must not deviate from God's pattern.

God likewise has a pattern of doctrine (teaching), to which man is to adhere. Again, man has stated that it doesn't matter so much what a person believes. Yet, the Bible speaks of a "form of doctrine" (Romans 6:17). Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to make sure no other doctrine was taught - "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine," (I Timothy 1:3). Paul, as a faithful servant, guarded the one true Gospel - "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any [man] preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8-9).

There is a divine pattern. God's word directs one in this life and leads him to eternal life. Are you allowing God to lead you by His word? "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me [to] glory" (Psalms 73:24).

This Week's Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday:	Amos 6 – 9
Monday:	Obad. — Jonah
Tuesday:	Micah
Wednesday:	Nahum
Thursday:	Hab. — Zeph.
Friday:	Haggai
Saturday:	Zechariah 1 – 7

Sermon Review

God: He is Spirit

(Acts 17:29; John 4:24)

Divine Nature is Not...

- I. Inanimate
- II. Invented
- III. Incarnate

Spiritism

(and the Paranormal)

(Material by Curtis Cates)

- I. Some History
- II. Some Holy Scriptures

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Aubrey Ratliff, battling asthma/bronchial problems
Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Nora Boling; Sara Norris;
Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern

OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Chubby DeLoach family, he passed on Tuesday morning; funeral was Friday. **Stephanie Bayless**, had a silent heart attack. **Eli Williams**, he was released to go home. **Frederick Bland**, recovering from his falls and experiencing dimensia. **Lauren Jackson**, will not receive radiation at this time. **Carla Carlson** and her battle with cancer. **Curtis A. Cates**, battling leukemia. **Mickey Knockart**, Jim's mother. **Paul Perkins**, Mischel's dad, recovering from a mini-stroke. **Gema Winchester** has stomach cancer, currently on a rest from treatments. **Matthew Canada** (5), has down syndrome, but was also diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Ray Maples; Wayne Collinsworth; Andrew Hagewood; Janie Brister; Chuck Tharp; Renee Loya; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield; Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

September Birthdays

9/5 Jake Sutton
9/11 Molly Ratliff
9/14 April Kinney
9/26 Bren Burdsal

September Anniversaries

9/5 Jake & Milba Sutton
9/19 Tim & Lynn Wilkes
9/27 Wiley & Betty Tuggle

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012

Let's continue to read and study together!!

Parents of Youth Meeting -- TODAY

Area-Wide Gospel Meeting in Corinth

Sept. 23-25, Crossroads Arena, Dan Winkler

Gospel Meeting at Looxahoma

Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, Wade Webster

Coldwater Trade Days Booth -- Oct. 6

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- Oct. 7

Bible Bowl -- Oct 13 -- 10:30AM

Acts 26 - 28 Study Hard!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, September 23

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Wiley Tuggle
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Jared Brown
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Ron Johnson
	Jason Bayless
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Joe Owen
Opening Prayer	Andy Ratliff
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell

Afternoon

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Opening Prayer	Seth Daniel
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jason Bayless
	Ron Johnson
	Jerry Davis
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, September 19

Song Leader	Jared Brown
Prayer	Billy Bland
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Jim Jackson