

Eisenhower Church of Christ

If We Lose the Sense of Pattern

One of the greatest of all points useful in the work of calling men back to the Standard of God is the idea of *pattern*. So very many have turned from sectarian and denominational systems due to an examination of their present spiritual/doctrinal status, and in seeing that they had been led away from the New Testament of the Christ; in seeing deviation, they saw the will of God and how their own moves had been against that will. Men in the period of the Restoration Movement sounded for the call, “let us return to the pattern!” It had appeal then and it has appeal now, where men are found who are good and honest of heart.

The idea of *pattern* is not new among the followers of God. Indeed, when God gave instructions to the Israelites in the book of Exodus, He followed with the exhortation through Moses: **“look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount”** (Exodus 25:40). The idea of pattern was very much a part of the content of Hebrews, with so many contrasts between Old and New covenants. And the reminder was given: **“for, see, said He, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount”** (Hebrews 8:5).

The idea of *pattern* rests in the idea of the Word as authority. And on that point, all of the problems in the church in these last several years finally boil down to rejection of authority by some. But when the Word is set forth as the authority, with instructions that we dare not go beyond it (2 John 9), and when that same Word is said to furnish us completely unto good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we would expect that authoritative Word to contain many patterns. Thus, we have been able to make lost men see that the Word contains the pattern for Jesus’ church, in its work, in its doctrine, in its worship, in its organization. We can both identify the true and the false because the pattern is set before us.

One would expect Satan to attack the idea of *pattern*. Faithfulness to God involves, first, one losing his own selfish will in his subjection to the will of the Lord (Luke 9:23). The very core of unfaithfulness and rejection of God’s will would be the disposition to follow self-will-to walk after one’s own lusts and desires (2 Peter 2:10). Those who are faithful, in their submissiveness, ask the Lord, by His revealed will, to give them direction; they want, they seek, and they wish to abide by, God’s *pattern*. They would have it no other way! But we have seen, and we continue to see, the other side of things at work in the brotherhood. The disdain for authority, and the mocking of any pattern, advertises the desire that men seek freedom to do their own pleasure rather than God’s will. Those who seek to follow the Bible are called “Bibliolaters.” Men who want to follow the pattern are called “patternists,” “traditionalists,” “mainliners,” and reviled as those not interested in growth. If a thus-saith-the-Lord is sought in all things, we are called “Pharisees” “unloving,” “uncaring” “unspiritual” and “legalists”.

Peter had plainly said that some **“speak evil of the things that they understand not”** (2 Peter 2:12). While men mock the idea of pattern, let us take comfort that the idea, and the very word, is used in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. Let us remember that from the very beginning of God’s dealing with man, the requirement has been man’s subjection to the Lord, and man doing the will of the Lord, fully, completely, exactly and without modification at all. God has set forth patterns and a pattern exists that there might be a standard and that in all adhering to the standard— in this case, God’s standard— there might then be conformity to God’s will. Let us never allow any who

mock pattern to so affect us that we cease to recognize that there is such a thing. We, in the Lord's kingdom, have prospered greatly as we have adhered to the pattern from above—the pattern of God; we have, and we will, always falter and fail when we show disdain for the pattern. In remembrance of Hebrews 8:5, ***“Let us do all things according to God's pattern!”***

—Bill Jackson

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Rena Robertson** (a former member at Eisenhower). Rena passed away the morning of January 8th. Her visitation will be Friday night, January 11th between 6:00-8:00 pm and services at 2:00 pm Saturday, at the Higginbotham Funeral Home in Gorman, TX. Keep this family in your prayers.

Concerns Update

Winford Hambright's swallow test was postponed. It will be rescheduled.

Prayer List

Brian Basaldua; Dennis Betts; Bill Brown; Brad Bundick; Bill Butler; Dana Erwin; Densell Fambro; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Anna Groves; Wayne Gunn; Winford Hambright; Roberta Hamil; Letha Hooper; Jennifer Jones; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Juan & Estella Morolez; Sharion Price; Hector Ramirez; Jackie Rex; Janelle Shirley; Charles Simmons; Matthew Simmons; Verla Snyder; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Lisa Wells; James & Janet Wesson; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley; Marilyn Upshaw and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

According to Leviticus 24:16, “He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death.” What reason did the Jews give for desiring the death of the Lord. They said we have a law by our law he ought to die?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

The occasion for Jesus leaving Nazareth and going into Galilee (1st time in His ministry) was the imprisonment of John the Baptist. (Matthew 4:12)

Events

Watch ***“In Search of the Lord's Way”*** every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the ***“Speaking the Truth in Love”*** program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of the ladies for the yummy baked cookies, they were delish. It was a very sweet gesture from all of you. Love you, Betty Branson

Dear Devida, Liz and all the ladies that made us old granny's all the goodies. It was so very thoughtful and kind. All of you are such good examples and so kind. May God bless you all, Love much,
Carolyn Wilkerson

Thanks to all the ladies who worked so hard to provide the beautiful and delicious treat boxes. It was a joy to receive.
Nancy Fisher

Office News

The “New Mexico Children’s Home” will be here Tuesday, March 5th for a food pick up. They are requesting **Aluminum Foil**. Monetary donations are also accepted.

STF—Group #2 will meet in the annex this morning for their group meeting.

NOTE:

Jonathan Abbott, the man we helped a while back is back in Odessa and is in need of clothing. If you can help him, here is his sizes; L-XL heavy hooded or coat; 32”/30 pants; L–XL long sleeve shirts; (L) boxers; Shoes or boots (7 1/2) & socks. He is wearing all the clothes he has.

WHEN?

Christ will return someday. He promised it, and the apostles reiterated that teaching (John 14:1-3; 2 Thess. 1:8-10). His coming will be universal, glorious and just prior to the judgment (Revelation 1:7; Matthew 25:31-33).

It is human to want to know WHEN this will occur. But, Jesus taught in Matthew 24:36 that we cannot know. In fact, only the Father knows. Therefore, it is idle and evil to speculate about the matter! The Lord’s coming will be like “*a thief in the night*” (2 Peter 3:10) on the “last day” of world history (John 6:44) at the “end of time” (I Corinthians 15:24). Instead of speculation, we should engage in preparation! We are admonished in Scripture to “*watch*” and “*be ready*” (Matthews 24:42-44). Since no one knows the hour of His coming, may we not foolishly concern ourselves with WHEN, but IN WHAT CONDITION that day will find us—among the saved or among the lost! (Matthew 25:46). “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong*” (I Cor. 16:13).

~Bill Jackson

January 13th, 2019	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Song Leader	Jaxon Straw	Cody Wesson
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Jeff Wesson	Jeff Wesson
Scripture	Jackie Perkins	Larry May
Second Prayer	Charles Wood	John Wood
Closing Prayer	Bill Tolbert	Scot Straw
Lord's Supper (Scripture Reading)	<u>Craig Wesson</u>	
West...	Tommy Garcia Bill Tolbert Larry May	Tom Sorenson Communion (In Library)
East...	Cody Wesson Jr. Munoz Clint Titlow	

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Jeff Wesson - 556-5547 *Deacon*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Pulpit*; Richard Siler 556-2151 *Table*; Tom Sorenson 638-9447— *Song Leaders*; Larry May 638-3990 *Recording Sermons*; Dex Dennard 296-1582 *Collections*; Dex Dennard

Sunday AM

"Sovereignty of God"

(Daniel 4:34-37)

Sunday PM

"Binding the Hand of the Lord"

(Mark 15:1)

Our Records

Bible Class... 61

Contribution...\$4,000.00