

According to the Pattern

Introduction:

As Christians and as a local congregation, we need to be committed to having a biblical identity. The key to having a biblical identity is give heed to Jesus (Acts 3:19-22). Having a biblical identity: means we must examine the scriptures and conform our lives & religious practices to what has been revealed. God wants us to do what He said to do: not as we please.

I. A look at a familiar text: Heb. 8:5

- A. Moses was warned by God to: *make all things according to the pattern.*
- B. Many features of OT system were put into place by God to picture what would eventually become reality through Jesus.
 1. Heb. 9:11; 10:1 – law – a shadow of good things to come.
- C. When studying passages like this – we must carefully explore for any underlying principles that pertain to us.
 1. God has expressed His mind to us: Heb. 1:1-2 – we have instructions to follow.

II. The principle in Hebrews 8:5.

- A. God's purpose is carried out when His plan is followed.
- B. We might restate the principle in this context:
 1. God, in his perfect mind, forms a purpose, then He reveals His pattern, with admonitions to follow His instructions.
 2. **Only when man follows His pattern is God's purpose carried out.**
 3. Stated negatively: **if we do not follow God's pattern, we fail to carry out His purpose.**
- C. What if Moses ignored God's pattern – followed his own plan?

III. A practical application: the local church.

- A. God, in His wisdom, set up the local church.
- B. When God set up the church – let there be no doubt – God had certain purposes in mind.
- C. What does the pattern suggest:
 1. On elders/deacons? Acts 14:23
 2. On our preaching & teaching? Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; 1 Cor. 4:6
 - a) If we refuse this – our souls in danger – Gal. 1:6-9
 3. on the way we use church resources in benevolence – 1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 9:11-13
 - a) What is the pattern? *Church funds* sent to brethren.
 4. On the way we worship.
 - a) There's a reason for singing *a cappella*. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
 - a) **We put 100% trust/faith in God, knowing our souls depend on it.**
 - b) Same true w/the LS; prayer; preaching; giving. Follow pattern so worship will be acceptable.

IV. What about those who do not follow the pattern?

1. God has spoken clearly about participation & association.
- B. Eph. 5:11 – what does God say? See also 2 John 9; Psa. 1:1
- C. This is not arrogance. Not haughtiness. It IS respecting the pattern.
 1. 1 Pet 3:15 – w/gentleness; meekness; 2 Tim. 2:24-26

Conclusion:

- A. What we have talked about today – not a matter of being conservative or sound. **It is a matter of being right.**
 1. Acts 2:42 – it about continuing in the apostle's doctrine.
- B. God's instruction manual tells us how to be saved? Have you been saved?