



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 34

June 19, 2016

Number 24

Schedule of Services

- **Sunday**
Bible Classes
10:00 am
Morning Worship
10:45 am
Evening Worship
6:00 pm
- **Wednesday**
Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

- Mike Ernstberger
270-753-2108
- James Pigg
270-759-2145
- Chad Canter
270-873-7509

Deacons

- Larry Enoch
- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
Cell: 270-978-7569
Home: 270-492-8091

Mission Work

Dean Crutchfield—India
Adam Evans—Tanzania

Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- Email: greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org

GOD'S DIVINE PATTERN *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Of what do you think when you see or hear the word “pattern”? Some may still think of a pattern for making a dress though making ones own dress is rare today. A dress pattern allows a seamstress to cut out the material for her dress so that it can be sown together to be made exactly as the pattern dictates.

Others may think of a pattern for building a house. This pattern is called a blueprint. It provides the exact dimensions and details that are necessary for the builder to complete the house. If the blueprint is followed exactly by the builders the resulting house will be of the very same dimensions and details as set forth in the pattern (blueprint).

The rules of baseball constitute a pattern for the game. If baseball ceased to exist for a hundred years and following that hundred years someone found the original rulebook for baseball could the game be restored? The obvious answer is yes, but only if those who sought to restore it followed the original pattern for baseball revealed in the original rulebook. If they departed from the original baseball rules they would not have restored the game.

There is another pattern in existence that is far more important than any of those previously mentioned. It is a pattern given to man by his Creator. It is the original divine pattern that gives mankind spiritual guidance and direction in life. It is God's divine pattern revealed in His Word.

Think back to the days of Noah as found in the Bible in Genesis chapter six. That was a time in which man had become very evil. God described man's spiritual condition in the words of Genesis 6:11-12, “*the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was*

filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.” There was only one man who continued to follow God. That man was Noah. God told Noah that he would send a flood to destroy man from the face of the earth. Yet, because Noah was righteous, he told him to build an ark in which he and his family could be saved. In Genesis 6:14-16 we find that God gave to Noah the exact pattern for the building of this ark. He told him to make it of gopher wood, that it would have rooms within it and that he was to pitch it within and without with pitch. He was to make the ark 300 cubits long and 50 cubits wide. It was to have one window and one door and would be three stories high. The Bible tells us that Noah followed this divine pattern for the building of the ark to the letter. In Genesis 6:22 the Bible says, “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” The divine account tells us that Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives were saved from the destruction of that universal flood in the ark. Now, question – If Noah would have deviated from the pattern that God had given him for the building of the ark would that ark have floated? Would Noah and his family have been saved or would they have drowned with the rest of mankind in the waters of the flood?

As you consider that question let's look at another divine pattern given by God to mankind. It's found in the book of Exodus chapter 25 and concerns the building of the tabernacle – God's dwelling place among His people of that day. God told Moses in Exodus

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NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Mary Lowrie, Paul Brandon, Lori Brandon, Jim Fielder, Alex Barrett, Rex Enoch, Steve Enoch Peggy Jarvis, and Teresa Enoch. **Nursing Homes:** Frank Pool, Marguerite Stubblefield, , Nancy Meacham, and Binitta Irvan. **Family and Friends:** Jerry and Patricia Lovett, Hugh Bolton, Stacy Hedrick, Harold Pond, Harry Lovett, Naomi Pigg, Norman Parker, Janie Suiter, Betty Jeffcoat, Virgil Hale, Kim Thomas, Kenneth Mizell, Cynthia Kearbey, Will and Nancy Winchester, Eva Darnell, Jason Sales, Todd Hill, Wallace Parker, Ruthie Parker, Lonnell Parker. Donna Boyd and Kenneth Starks. Please remember these with visits, cards and in your prayers.
- *Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our VBS a success this year. Thanks especially to Larry Enoch for coordinating the BVS and leading the songs. Thanks to each of our teachers who worked hard to prepare their lessons. Thanks to those who provided food and drink and to all who attended.*
- **Pantry items for June:** 5th—Peanut Butter; 12th—Mixed Vegetables; 19th—Spaghetti Sauce ; 26th—Canned Meats.
- Please remember our **snacks for the hospital program** and place your items in the baskets in the lobby. Thanks for supporting this program.
- Continue to pray for Dean Crutchfield and the Lord’s work in India and brother Adam Evans and the Lord’s work in Tanzania. See the mission board for the latest reports from these respective works including letters from some of the Indian preachers supported by this congregation.
- If you have announcements for the bulletin, please write them out and hand them to Jonnie before Thursday of each week. Thanks.
- **PASS IT ON!!** Please pass this bulletin on to a friend, relative, neighbor or fellow employee when you have finished reading it. Use it as a means to evangelize. Pick up some extra copies and distribute them to others.

Lessons Today

Morning: Not Afraid to
Live or Die”

Evening: To be
Announced.

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COME VISIT WITH US

The church building is located southeast of Murray one mile off highway 641 - Near the corner of the Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads. We look forward to seeing you!
A warm and friendly welcome awaits!



RESEARCH QUESTION

Who witnessed the ascent of Jesus into heaven?

Last Week How many days did Jesus remain on the earth after His resurrection from the dead?

Answer: 40 days (Acts 1:3).

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greenplainchurchofchrist.org

(Scan Image with your QR coder Reader to go to website)



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25:8-9, "And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the **pattern** of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it." God gave to Moses in great detail the exact detailed pattern for the building of the tabernacle. Now, question – if Moses had failed to follow that divine pattern for building the tabernacle would God have been pleased? The writer of the book of Hebrews refers back to this pattern for the tabernacle in Hebrews 8:5 saying, "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** showed to thee in the mount." Moses was to make all things according to the pattern which God has shown him. The Hebrew writer lets us know that Moses is an example for us. As he was to make all things according to God's pattern, so must we today.

Still another divine pattern given to man was for the building of the temple in the days of King Solomon. Before that temple was built, God gave to King David, Solomon's father, the exact pattern for the building of the temple which he in turn gave to Solomon to follow. The Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 28:11, "Then David gave to Solomon his son the **pattern** of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat. And the **pattern** of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the Lord, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things." Yes, God gave a pattern for the building of the temple. Now, suppose Solomon would have chosen to build the temple by his own pattern. Suppose he had rejected the pattern passed from God to his father David. Would he have pleased God?

Friends, the truth is that neither Noah, Moses, nor Solomon would have pleased God if any of them had departed from the divine pattern they had received from God. In each case God gave them exactly and in detail what He desired for them to do. He gave them a pattern for action which they were to follow to the letter. In each case these men followed the divine pattern and received the blessings which God had promised.

The truth is that every law which God has given to man has been a divine pattern for man. Even in the garden of Eden, God's law concerning the eating of the fruits of the various trees in the garden was a divine pattern which man was given to follow. When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they left the

divine pattern, thereby sinning and suffered the consequences for their error.

The law of Moses in the Old Testament was a divine pattern for God's chosen people Israel. God's people were required by God to obey that law in order to receive the blessings He promised. (Deut. 11:26-28) "To not obey the commandments of the Lord and to turn aside out of the way was to deviate from the divine pattern. Those who so deviated suffered the curse of which the verse speaks. In Deut. 13:4 the Bible says, "Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him." What was Moses telling the people? He was telling them that it was necessary to follow the divine pattern given by God.

Though the law of Moses has fulfilled the purpose for which God gave it and has now been taken out of the way (according to Colossians 2:14-16 and Romans 7:1-4, God has not left you and me without a divine pattern. He has not left us on our own to stumble around without spiritual guidance or direction. He **has** given you and me a **pattern** to follow in our lives. That pattern is the New Testament of Jesus Christ. It is just as important for us today to follow God's divine pattern as it was for Noah, Moses, Solomon and the nation of Israel. God doesn't give a divine pattern to be ignored or rejected. Just as surely as these men of old would have displeased God by rejecting his divine pattern given them, so we today will displease God if we reject the divine pattern of the New Testament which has been given to us. It is vitally important that we each recognize this truth. It is sad indeed that there is a failure in modern religion to both recognize and follow the divine pattern to which all of us are subject today. Men and women have added to, subtracted from and substituted their own human teaching and practice for what is revealed in the divine pattern. Friends, we can't do that and please God! Just as Moses was admonished of God to "make all things according to the pattern" so must we today if we hope to please God and possess the hope of eternal life.

How do we know that the New Testament is God's pattern for us today? First, the New Testament teaches that to please God man must walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). But from where does faith come? Romans 10:17 answers that question when it says, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Without the New Testament of Jesus Christ man would have no source of faith. And without faith man cannot please God according to Hebrews 11:6. The New Testament has been given as a pattern to direct man in the walk of faith.

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Second, the New Testament has been given as a pattern for man's salvation from sin. The New Testament reveals, not only God's desire for man's salvation from sin, but the how of obtaining that salvation. Jesus tells us that "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." The will of the Father is His divine pattern for man. If you do not follow the pattern given by the Father you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. In 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 the Holy Spirit reveals that those who "know not God and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" will "be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power." Friends, what does it mean to "obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ"? It means a failure to follow the divine pattern revealed and written in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 5:9 tells us that Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation unto all those who obey him." To obey Him is to follow the divine pattern he has given. To disobey him is to reject that divine pattern. The inspired apostle Paul describes the gospel as "the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Friend, how can the gospel be so described if it does not constitute the divine pattern for man's salvation from sin?

Third, the very fact that the same gospel revealed in the New Testament is to be taught to successive generations is evidence that it is a divine pattern of salvation that must be preserved and passed on. Jesus told His disciples to ¹⁹*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* (Matthew 28:19-20). The preacher Timothy was told by the inspired apostle Paul, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Why such a requirement unless the New Testament is God's divine pattern for man until the end of time?

A fourth way in which we can know that the New Testament is God's divine pattern for man today is the fact that it will judge us in the last day (John 12:47-48). The New Testament is the word of Christ. The Bible says in Romans 2:16 that men will be judged by the gospel. The gospel and the New Testament are one and the same and constitute God's divine pattern for us today.

The seed principle as taught in the New Testament further proves that it is a divine pattern. Jesus began his explanation of the parable of the sower by saying, "The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11)

The law of reproduction states that a seed brings forth after its kind (Gen. 1:11). That would be impossible if there was no specific pattern within the seed. A seed of corn contains a specific pattern that results in the growth of corn from that seed. That is why when we plant a seed of corn we do not expect to reap green beans. If we wanted green beans then we would plant the seed that has the specific pattern of green beans within it. The word of God is the seed of the kingdom. If one desires to produce members of the kingdom of Christ then he must plant the seed with that specific pattern within it. In other words, he must plant the New Testament of Jesus Christ. When that spiritual seed is planted in honest and good hearts it will bring forth a harvest of New Testament Christians.

Having proven that the New Testament is a pattern brings before us another question: Is it a pattern that is still relevant today? The idea that something as old as the New Testament may be an improvement in our modern society is regarded by many as foolish. This view is really the result of a failure to understand both the nature of man and the nature of God's divine pattern. You see, man has basically not changed since God first brought him into existence. Man still has the capacity to love or hate, to like or dislike, to be humble or proud, to rejoice or weep, to labor or loaf. In addition, man has not outgrown sin. Sin remains the greatest enemy of mankind. And, as far as sin is concerned, there is nothing new under the sun. The same sins man has always committed are the same sins he continues to commit: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, divisions, parties, drunkenness, revellings – were the sins of the first century and are still the sins of the twenty-first century. Read the description of the drunkard in Proverbs 23:29-30 and see if the drunkard acts any differently today than he did in the days of King Solomon.

Just as sin and man's continued participation in it has not changed, neither has the remedy for sin changed. The message of Christ is equally effective in transforming lives in either the first century or the twenty-first century. If neither man nor the sin that afflicts him has changed, and if the divine pattern in the New Testament was effective in the first century, shouldn't we expect it to be just as effective in the twenty-first century?

This is the very reason why faithful churches of Christ plea for a return to the divine pattern of the New Testament; to the practice of first century Christianity. The pattern of salvation then is the pattern of salvation now. The effect that pattern had then is the effect it will have now. We must build by God's divine pattern for that is the only way we can be acceptable and pleasing to God.