

“See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” **Hebrews 8:5**

Store In My Heart

Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.”

These two verses sum up the story of Ruth. She was a woman devoted to service. She was willing to do whatever was necessary to help Naomi, her mother-in-law.

Her devotion helped Naomi, and brought good things to Ruth. Her marriage to Boaz was a blessing. It also brought forth a son in the lineage of Jesus.

Ruth is not the only one who demonstrates service in this story. Learning the lesson of serving others from this book will help us better understand the blessings service brings.



Has God Given Us A Pattern?

Wendell Watts

Some are boldly proclaiming that the New Testament is not a God-given blueprint, or pattern, for Christians of all ages to follow. They argue loudly that the cultures of today’s generation are so different from the cultures of the first century - when the books of the New Testament were written - that the words of the New Testament cannot possibly mean now what they meant then. Their plea is, “Since we have no pattern, we must restructure the church or she will die.” As a result of such thinking changes are being introduced into the church on a grand scale.

Think about this idea, seriously. If the New Testament does not serve as our pattern in religion today, man is left free to follow his own feelings, desires and ambitions. Because of the failure to accept the New Testament as a religious guide man is hopelessly divided. The competing churches of our time are testimony to this fact.

To deny that the New Testament serves as our religious pattern is to deny the inspiration of the Bible. Paul wrote, “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,*” **2Timothy 3:16-17**. These words are just as true today as they were when written. God leads man, guides man, by His word.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Paula Laubach is doing well following successful knee surgery. She has started physical therapy.

Joyce Venable has been in some pain the last couple days.

Ruben returns to the doctor in mid April.

John Jackson has been released from physical therapy.

Tonight we start our study in 1Samuel 2:12 at 5 pm.

Wednesday night will be singing night.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

This has always been the case. When Noah found grace in the eyes of God, the Lord gave Noah a pattern for building the ark. God specified the kind of wood, the dimensions, a window, a door and other needs for the ark. God told Noah, *"This is the fashion which thou shalt make it of,"* **Genesis 6:15**. When Noah followed God's pattern and *"did according to all that God commanded him,"* **Genesis 6:22**, Noah was saved from the flood.

It has always been God's policy, in dealing with man, to give him a pattern to follow - to tell man what to do and how to do it. Cain and Abel offered sacrifices unto God, **Genesis 4:3-4**. God accepted the sacrifice of Abel but rejected the sacrifice of Cain. Why? Abel followed God's pattern and did what God commanded. Cain did not. The Bible says, *"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,"* **Hebrews 11:4**. Abel simply believed what God said and obeyed.

It's unreasonable to suppose that God will hold us accountable for the kinds of lives we live and not give us a pattern to live our lives by. If God had treated man so unfairly, man would have been hopelessly lost. No pattern to follow, no eternal salvation to gain. Jeremiah recognized this and wrote, *"Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps,"* **Jeremiah 10:23**.

Men today fail to acknowledge this. Unwilling to follow God's pattern they set out to blaze religious trails of their own. *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,"* **Romans 1:22**. They have *"changed the truth of God into a lie,"* **Romans 1:25**. It is strange that men will deliberately turn from the truth to a lie but that is what anyone does when he turns from God to human wisdom.

Away with the idea that God has given us no religious pattern! Let us say with the psalmist, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path,"* **Psalms 119:105**. May we all turn to the word of God, His pattern, for all that we teach and practice in religion. Truly, God's *"divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,"* **2Peter 1:3**.

(While this article was written in 1999 the problem it considers is still prevalent today. Many have chosen to reject the patterns clearly defined in Scripture in order to establish their own 'patterns' which are in line with many of the social movements in our society. Choosing to follow our own pattern will lead to failure as man is not able to find salvation outside of God's Plan. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!