
Subject: The New Testament Pattern

Posted by [william](#) on Sat, 08 May 2010 04:37:15 GMT

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Actually the "Biblical Pattern".

As the Lord established Himself in the new nation of Israel with the giving of the Law, it becomes obvious that His plan for mankind is being unveiled. Interestingly enough He chooses an unlikely and relatively small group of people to make Himself known. Without their obedience His message would not proceed very far. Apart from the tables of stone written with His own finger there wouldn't be a whole lot of evidence of God's plan if the recipients hadn't taken some responsibility to both document and preserve His words for future generations.

That revelation could be further compromised by the lack of morality, by those to whom the Word had come. Fortunately the written record survived despite the moral failings of His chosen people. Even the lack of faithfulness on the part of trustees was documented and preserved so that future generations could see aspects of God's grace and forbearance that might otherwise be hidden.

Fast forward to the New Testament. The Jews have neglected their responsibility to bring the light of the good news to the gentile nations and have become introverted. In the span of a few years they reject God's renewed attempt to restore their prominence as bearers of His revelation which turns out to be a blessing for the gentiles. They officially reject God's offer of salvation obtained through the suffering and death of His own son.

God had once again offered to them the responsibility of bearing His standard to the world and in the pages of the Book of Acts you seen them time and again rejecting His offer.

They wanted to continue to be focused upon those things that seemed to make them unique-adherence to an outward conformity to a myriad of minutia. They saw the details but failed to see the grand mosaic that was spread before them. Paul finally has had enough of their rejection and says: (Act 28:28) Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

They did indeed hear the message of the Gospel and proceeded to spread it

far and wide.

Fast forward to the present day. As gentiles we were given the same responsibility to spread the good news by offering God's salvation to all. This has been done to some degree throughout Church history with various levels of success. The main problems that continue to hinder the successful propagation of that message is the same problems that the Jews encountered--pride and sin. (Obviously pride IS SIN!)

We spend our days thanking God that we are not like that sinner, and just like the Pharisee we wrap ourselves in the knowledge that we are "the elect". Oh the simplicity of the Gospel! Love God with our whole heart and love our perishing neighbors as we love ourselves!

None of us know how much time we have left to spread His message; shouldn't we spend the rest of our days doing just that? How much time have we wasted as professional critics; critiquing this group or that group, instead of preaching the good news of our common salvation, and the blessings derived from following His Word?

As far as I can tell the first attempt to mold the Church into the failed methodology of the past came from the Judaizers who wanted to burden the growing-by-leaps-and-bounds Church by preaching: You must be circumcised to be saved! We have our own variations but the message is the same-- Do This, or Don't do that, or you can't be saved. Shouldn't we have the same sort of answer to those false messages as did the early church? Is the Lord's arm so short as to be unable to save without us trying to help Him produce good works in the people He chooses?

The message then is the same message today--preach the Good News of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit will come as a refining fire to purge the dross from the midst of His people. He has His work and we have ours, let us not become as the Jews became--so introverted as to be unable to perceive God's plan for the world. They failed miserably and we will fail too... unless we learn the lessons that have been clearly set before us.

Blessings,
William
