

WHAT IS A PATTERN?

A pattern is a blueprint, a representative sample or specimen. It is a model to be followed in making things. It is an ideal that is worthy of imitation.

Most everything around us is “made by” or “according” to a pattern. There are patterns for clothes, houses, machines — everything imaginable! This article is written according to a pattern. It has a certain space it must fit. It must neither be too short nor too long. It must match the perimeter that has been outlined for it.

As a new student in the first grade, I remember the letters of the alphabet posted around the wall in the classroom. We were given instructions to copy those letters. We were so careful to make our letters exactly as they were shown. They were the pattern we were to follow. I’ve been following that pattern to this very day. All who read this piece are following the same pattern.

Christians are to imitate the Lord’s example/pattern. *“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps”* (1 Peter 2:21). God has always demanded that His pattern be followed. Noah built the

ark according to God’s pattern (Genesis 6:22). Moses constructed the tabernacle according to the pattern given him (Heb. 8:5).

There is certainly a spiritual pattern that all men must follow today to stand approved in God’s sight. This pattern is not found in the creeds, manuals or disciplines of men. God’s approved blueprint or pattern is the Bible, God’s Word. It is His Word by which we will be judged in the end. Jesus said, *“...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48; cf. Rev. 20:12).

Does your belief and practice match God’s pattern or does it match the doctrines of men? Jesus said the doctrines and commandments of men will cause one’s worship to be vain and will be rooted up as unwanted plants at the end of the world (Matt. 15:8-9,13).

Does God’s plan of salvation match what you did to be saved? Does your worship match God’s pattern? If not, then you are not saved and your worship is in vain. Jesus said, **believe** (Mark 16:16), **repent** (Luke 13:3), **confess** (Matt. 10:32), and **be baptized** (Mark 16:16) to be saved. Have you followed this pattern?

—Garland M. Robinson