

**Today's Order of Worship**

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: David Key

Opening Prayer: Billy Box

On the Table: Head - Eddy Dickinson  
Servers - Greg Lowery  
Josh Berryhill  
Ralph Burleson

Closing Prayer: Charles Berryhill

Preparing the Lord's Supper Vertie Mae York

**Weekly Service Times**

Sunday

Bible Study	10:00 am
Morning Worship	10:45 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 pm
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**Visit Our Website**

[www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org)

Elders: Leonard Key / David Key  
Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Deacons: Al Corkren / Josh Berryhill

Minister: Greg Lowery

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Brilliant, AL 35548

# He Gave Us A Pattern



*The  
Brilliant  
Beacon*



**Pattern Theology**

By Kevin Cauley

The plea of churches of Christ today is to restore New Testament Christianity into the lives of as many as will receive the gospel message. It is not sufficient to merely preach the gospel, without expecting those who claim to believe it to restore to their lives the truth that is contained within that gospel. To this end, the churches of Christ preach and teach that the gospel contains all of the information that we need to do this (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:17). This revealed information constitutes a pattern whereby those that conform to it and abide by it restore New Testament Christianity into their life. It is with this pattern that we are concerned in this particular study.

There are those today who say that the New Testament contains no such pattern and in so affirming, also must affirm the impossibility of restoration. If there is no pattern, then certainly one cannot restore New Testament Christianity. However, if the New Testament does contain such a pattern, then not only is restoration of New Testament Christianity possible, we must restore it to be pleasing to God. Hence, the plea of the churches of Christ today rests upon this one pivotal question; namely, does the New Testament contain a pattern of information, whereby when we conform to that pattern we have restored New Testament Christianity?

Jesus tells us that there is a pattern. In explaining the Parable Of The Sower, Jesus says, “The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11). From examining this parable we take Jesus to mean that the proverbial seed refers to God’s word, and that the word of God, as illustrated within the parable, has the properties of a seed. Just what are the properties of a seed? We recognize that a seed contains everything within it to restore the plant from which it came. There is a pattern within a seed which nature follows to restore from that seed a living and breathing organism. We don’t expect that a seed with the pattern of an apple tree would restore an orange tree, and vice versa. We expect a seed that contains the pattern of an apple tree, when that pattern is followed by nature, to restore an apple tree. So is the word of God. When individuals follow God’s word, restoring to life out of that word what God put into it, they will find themselves conforming to a pattern that will create what God desires it to create, namely, a Christian. In so doing, they will find that they have restored what God placed into His word. With such, God will be pleased.

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Mary Rainey: has bone cancer throughout her body, please be praying for her and her family

Patty Berryhill: having problems with a hernia, please pray that the doctors can help her with this problem

Billy Lee & Jimmie Ann Hardy {Carolyn’s Brother & Sister} both are in the nursing home in Guin, please continue to pray for them they both have some health issues

Joey Colburn: is taking treatments for cancer, please pray that the treatments will be successful in defeating his cancer

Felicia Berryhill: she is having some ongoing health problems, please pray that she will be able to receive the right medical treatment to help her

Angie Ganey Gardner: breast cancer surgery went well and is waiting learn the next course of treatment, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Tommy Housh: diagnosed with bladder cancer, please pray that they will be able to successfully defeat this cancer

Ren Garrison (Donna Martin’s Nephew): is still dealing with an issue concerning his heart, please be praying that this issue will be dealt with successfully

Jack Willis (Meg Rutledge’s Father) is fighting cancer, please keep him and his family in your prayers

Shauna Silas: diagnosed with thyroid cancer, please be praying that with treatments this cancer will be defeated

Josh Berryhill: dealing with back trouble, please pray that with proper medical treatment that he will improve

**THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS**

Mary Box: some ongoing other health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Ruth Addison: ongoing health problems, please keep her in your prayers

Nelle Fraizer (Lellie’s Sister); she has some ongoing health problems

Glynda Long: she is fighting stage 4 colon cancer, please pray that this cancer will be defeated

Jamie Long: has an upcoming hernia surgery, please be praying for a successful surgery

Susie Sims (Whitehouse): has a benign tumor on the auditory nerve in her right ear, she will taking radiation treatments to stop the tumor from growing, please pray that the treatments will be successful

Celia Grace Hamlett, daughter of Gary and Kassie Hamlett, was diagnosed with MLD(Metachromatic Leukodystrophy) in March. Doctors have suggested that they go to Italy for gene replacement treatment that hasn't been approved in the U.S. Treatments will take 4 months; please pray that these treatments will be successful

Alex, Stachie, & David Chaffin: fighting COVID, please continue to pray that they will overcome this illness

The opposite of this is that when we neglect the word of God in such a way so as to remove part of God’s pattern or even to add other things to God’s pattern, we will not get what God desires and God will not be pleased. One of the lessons that we learn in this regard comes from Cain and Abel. We remember the story. Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel was a shepherd. Cain offered in worship to God from the fruit of the ground, but Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock. God had respect toward Abel’s worship, but God was not pleased with the worship of Cain (Genesis 4:1-5). Why was it that God was pleased with Abel’s worship, but not with Cain’s? The book of Hebrews helps us to understand the answer. Hebrews 11:4 states, “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” 1 John 3:12 also helps us to understand; this passage says that Cain’s works were evil, but Abel’s were righteous. How could Abel’s works be righteous? Had not Abel sinned and fallen from God? How could Abel present a work of righteousness before God? We must conclude that God instructed Abel in how to please Him. Abel heard God’s word and presented that offering by faith, for faith comes by hearing God’s word (Romans 10:17). It was thus that Abel had a pattern from God. No doubt, Cain had been told of this same pattern; Cain simply did not follow it. By not following it, Cain offered worship that was according to his own righteousness and not pleasing to God. We learn from this not only that Abel followed a pattern, but also that fallen man needs a pattern so as not to present to God a righteousness of his own.

To illustrate this further, we turn to Adam and Eve. Prior to Adam and Eve’s fall, man was in about as patternless a state as man could ever be. There was but one law by which to abide, and as long as man abode by that law, he could do any other thing he wanted to do and live forever and never be displeasing to God. Once, however, man fell, man no longer could please God with just any behavior. It became necessary for God to tell man what to do in order for man to please God. This necessitated God’s creation and delivery of a pattern to man. This is illustrated for us in Adam’s attempt to clothe himself after the fall. Standing naked before God he attempted to cover himself and woefully failed. God, however, made coats out of animal skins and thus covered man’s nakedness and established the divine pattern for so doing. In this pattern we see man’s dependence upon God for righteousness. When we follow God’s pattern for that righteousness, man is covered. Without it, man stand’s naked.

Man’s failures at his own coverings transfer to his attempts at worship as well. We have already illustrated this in the story of Cain and Abel. Because man could not approach God with a righteousness of his own, this necessitated God delivering a pattern for worship. Fallen man cannot present worship to God without some kind of God given pattern of worship. Since that time it has been universally true that when man by faith presents the pattern of worship that God has given, man lives within God’s righteousness. However, should man step outside of that pattern and act on his own in worship to God, man creates a righteousness after his own pattern and not after God’s pattern. In so creating his own pattern, man can never truly restore God’s order of things. However, if man humbles himself, goes back to the pattern of God, and follows that pattern, beautiful restoration occurs. This is true in matters concerning worship, salvation, the organization of the church, the behavior of Christians, and many other things whereby we, as man, must approach God.

Today, the blood of Christ has dedicated the pattern of things which God has given us to approach Him (Hebrews 9:23, 24). This means that the pattern is pure and holy and that when one follows it in faith, one can approach God in purity and holiness with boldness (Hebrews 10:19-22). When we so follow the pattern we will restore the things God wishes for us to restore in our lives. When we fail to follow that pattern, we do err and like Cain, do that which is evil. Let us not be about the business of approaching God based upon a righteousness of our own, but let us hold the pattern of sound words (2 Timothy 1:13) and thereby approach God in His righteousness.

Obtained at: [www.churchofchristarticles.com](http://www.churchofchristarticles.com)

**A Look At Patterns**

By Mike Riley

There are those in the religious world who show great disdain for pattern theology. However, when we look up the word “pattern” in the New King James version of the Bible, we see the word mentioned thirteen times, it’s meaning determined by the context.

When we look up the word “pattern” in the dictionary, we see the following words with the same idea in mind: Design; style; model; form; arrangement; guide or diagram. Looking in a Thesaurus, we see the following terms associated with the word “pattern”: Diagram; guide; figure; mold; plan; template.

When God commanded Noah to build an ark because He was going to destroy the earth with water, He gave him specific instructions — a “pattern” or “blueprint” or “design” as to how the ark was to be constructed, along with its measurements (Genesis 6:13-17).

God commanded Moses to build the tabernacle, and everything in the tabernacle according to the “pattern” He revealed to him (cf. Exodus 25:9,31-40; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5).

My father was the owner/operator of a television repair business for over forty years. In the repairing of televisions, he had to have a schematic “diagram” for every particular model of television, in order to properly trace the problem it had back to its source.

There are those in the church who allege that we do not have a “pattern” or “standard” of law to follow — that we are simply under the umbrella of God’s grace, and that the New Testament is simply a series of “love letters.” However, Paul told Timothy something different when he stated:

“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:13).

Brethren and friends, we are indeed living under the New Testament law — God’s “pattern” or “guide” or “rule” for successfully living the Christian life — the “pattern” that will guide us safely into eternity (1 Corinthians 9:21; Gal. 6:2; Gal. 6:16).

Obtained at: [www.gewatkins.net](http://www.gewatkins.net)