

Rom. 14:19  
So then let  
us follow  
after things  
which make  
for peace,  
and things  
whereby we  
may edify  
one another.



John 8:32  
And  
ye shall  
know the  
truth and  
the truth  
shall make  
you free.

August 26  
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## ARE WE GOD'S PEOPLE?

Jim Stauffer

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush on Mount Sinai, God spoke to him providing instruction for him to become the deliverer of His people from slavery in Egypt.

He reminded Moses, *I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.* (Ex. 3:6) The burning bush that was not consumed by the fire, was to gain the attention of Moses in order for God to speak to him and authorize his mission. No one else had the power or authority to delegate for this mission. The only way it could be accomplished was with God's power. After all, Egypt was a very powerful nation with an army far superior to anything the Israelites could call to their side.

Later God details His promised deliverance further as he tells Moses, *Ex. 6:6 "Say, therefore, to the sons of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. 7 'Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.* God informed them they would be His people. And with the power Moses had seen, his mission was now to convince both Egypt and Israel of the power God possessed and His determination to free His people.

Following this promise the world witnessed one of the greatest demonstrations of God's power over all the creation in the 10 plagues brought against the nation of Egypt in order to free the Israelites.

The primary lesson is simple. The people of God are led by the very power that created the Universe to begin with. Therefore, there is no greater power unto which man could wisely submit.

We know of the subsequent release of the Israelites and their covenant with God instituted at Sinai.

Now Jesus comes with a covenant that is the fulfillment of the promises of that covenant (Mat. 5:17;

Heb. 8:7-12; Eph. 2:14-16).

So, we ask, what is the purpose and benefit of this new covenant that Jesus, the Messiah promised under the old covenant?

The promise to Israel under the Law of Moses was a land flowing with milk and honey. A land of rest from their labors in Egypt. This covenant too, is for the purpose of deliverance. This deliverance also provides a rest. It is the relief from the heavy burden of sin (Mat. 11:28-30; John 8:32).

The promise Jesus makes carries the same authority and power of that made to Moses and Israel. We will become God's people when we enter the covenant with Christ. Behind this promise is the same power of the same God Who created the entire Universe.

There is one compelling issue for man today just as it existed for those Israelites. They must trust in this great and powerful God, whose promises never fail (Titus 1:1,2; Heb. 6:17-20). Jesus has said, *...I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.* (John 14:6)

The Israelites struggled with fear as the Egyptian army pursued them all the way to the Red Sea. They doubted their decision to follow Moses. But the power of God delivered them from the hand of their oppressor. We too, may be hesitant to trust this promise of eternal rest (Heb. 4:1-9). But just as Israel had to make the decision to follow the deliverer, Moses, we must choose to follow our deliverer, Jesus Christ.

So, ask yourself, if Jesus sent His disciples into the world to teach all men to believe in Him and be baptized for the remission of sins, why do you hesitate? Is it the same fear the Egyptians had of losing even the life they had in slavery? Can you not let go of this world in order to follow the Savior to the eternal rest He has promised? Or are you simply unaware of what He has required of you? Maybe you are trusting in someone other than the Deliverer, Jesus Christ. Maybe you have been taught something other than His message.

The one thing God has demanded from all men is complete trust and reliance upon His word. Are you being guided by His word only or have you trusted in some who have added to or taken from it? **Deut. 4:2** *You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.*

This is the signature attribute of God's people.

## God's Pattern

Patterns are an important part of our lives in many ways. When a contractor builds a house, he follows a pattern known as a blueprint. When a mother sews a dress for her daughter, she follows a pattern.

In each case there is a standard pattern to be followed to achieve the desired results. The pattern must be followed or the end product will not be faithful to the original and the results could be disastrous. The house not built to pattern may leak or worse, it may collapse; the dress not made by the pattern may look more like a clown outfit.

Many people who have the common sense to recognize the need to faithfully follow patterns in their everyday lives, fail to recognize the most important pattern of all the Bible. God has always provided a pattern for His people to serve as a guide to worship and service acceptable to Him.

In the Old Testament, God led the children of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt to Mt. Sinai. There God called Moses up the mountain and gave him a pattern of laws and a pattern for a place of worship. As God gave Moses this pattern, He also gave a warning: *"According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so ye shall make it" (Ex. 25:9)*. And He repeated this warning: *"And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shown thee in the mount" (Ex. 25:40)*.

Following God's pattern, the Jews constructed the tabernacle and all the articles for worship to be placed within and without: the brazen altar, the laver, the golden candlestick, the table of shewbread, the altar of incense and the ark of the covenant.

Not all the Jews heeded God's warning to follow his pattern. Two priests determined to disregard God's pattern of worship and follow their own worship. Nadab and Abihu *"offered strange incense before the Lord, which he commanded them not" (Lev. 10:1)*. The consequences of violating God's divine order were immediate, *"And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (Lev. 10:2)*. God's punishment of these two men was for our benefit to teach us to treat His pattern with respect.

When David became king he planned the build a permanent place of worship in Jerusalem. While David was not allowed by the Lord to build the temple, David did make all the plans and preparations for the construction of the temple which he passed on to his son, Solomon, to complete. As David commissioned Solomon to build the temple he explained, *"All this the Lord made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern" (1 Chron. 28:19)*. David urged Solomon to follow God's pattern in the commands of his Law as well as building His temple.

Despite God's warnings again the Jews failed to respect and keep God's pattern. Towards the end of his life Solomon drifted away from God. Following Solomon under the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, more Jewish kings were unfaithful to the Lord. Because of the apostasy of the Jews, God allowed them to be taken into captivity and the temple to be destroyed.

While in captivity in Babylon, God sent a special vision of the temple to the prophet Ezekiel. In the vision Ezekiel saw a man with a measuring rod measuring God's temple and all the articles in it. Why? What was the meaning of the vision? *"Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern" (Ezk. 43:10)*.

Just as God gave the Jews a pattern through Moses and David, He has given us a pattern of work and worship. The Old Testament, the tabernacle and the temple were only *"a copy and a shadow of heavenly things"* that are now provided for us by Christ under the New Testament.

The pattern Christians have to follow is complete and sufficient. It is complete as it has *"given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3)*. It is sufficient as it *"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" (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*.

As God warned the Jews not to violate or tamper with His pattern, He warns us also.

We must obey God's pattern. It is necessary to obey *"that form (pattern) of doctrine which was first delivered to you" (Rom. 6:17)*. To fail to obey His pattern leads to sin and death **(Rom. 6:18-23)**.

We must walk by God's pattern. The apostles, led by the Holy Spirit are an *"ensample"* or pattern for us to learn from, imitate and walk after **(Phil. 3:17; 2 Thes. 3:9)**.

We must keep God's pattern. *"Hold fast the form (pattern) of sound words, which thou hast heard of me" (2 Tim. 1:13)*.

We must make all things by God's pattern. As Moses was warned to follow the pattern of God in all things, so God warns us in the New Testament *"for See, sayeth He, that thou make all things according to the*



*pattern" (Heb. 8:5).*

Will you heed the warning?

*by Wayne Greeson*

## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

It is helpful and appropriate, that from time to time, we stop to examine and question even the most basic of our beliefs and understandings about the Bible and about our relationship to the Lord. Inspiration tells us that we need to be able to speak intelligently about what we believe and why we believe it. Faith in God, Christ, the church, the Bible, etc., and more, are important elements that relate to the hope we have in our hearts. Faith is a must in order to please God (**Rev 11: 6**). Our faith must proceed from God's word (**Rom. 10: 17**). That being true, our service to the Lord is based upon faith or conviction emanating from His instructions to us. Our devotion to the Lord becomes a matter of looking to His word, and then embracing the totality of His expressed will for us. We then strive to implement that will in our lives each day.

The church of Christ is built upon the great eternal truth espoused by Peter in **Matthew 16: 16**. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Any act of service or devotion to God that does not recognize this fact is of no value or merit before the Lord. Yes, good that is done by someone may be of benefit to mankind or might aid in the betterment of society, but that is a far cry from acknowledging the absolute claim of authority that Christ has as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. The proper foundation for our service to our Creator is expressed by Paul in **1 Corinthians 3: 11**. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus."* No building will be stronger than its foundation; and the shifting, changing sandy foundations of men will always bring ruin (**Matt. 7:21-27**).

An important fact needs to be emphasized at this point. When we speak of the Lord's church, we are not talking about a denomination among denominations. The church of our Lord existed in the mind of God from all eternity, and as such is perfect in every expression of God's will (**Eph. 3:8-11**). The fact that we might in some way denominationalize the Lord's church is freely granted, but that is not the issue just here. The Lord's church does exist and can exist in our day and time, but only as we recognize the solid foundation of Jesus Christ. The teachings of men will produce followers of other men. The Lutheran church acknowledges its dependence upon Martin Luther. The Christian Science church looks to Mary Baker Eddy. The Seventh Day Adventist church looks to Ellen G. White. The Mormon church looks to Joseph Smith. Denominations are built upon some particular person and teaching.

The church of Jesus Christ is singular in nature in that it is built exclusively upon the teachings of its Head. Our standing before God is no better than the foundation our faith rests upon. That is why we must continue to recognize Christ as our only authority. Books, creeds, papers ("Brotherhood" so-called and others), schools, et. al., can easily take residence in our hearts, replacing Christ as our Head. If that is our attitude, we are no better than those around us whom we undertake to severely condemn. Wrong is wrong, in and out of the church! Remember, Jesus promised to pluck up every plant not recognized by the heavenly Father (**Matt. 15:13**)!

Let us build our Lives upon Christ and Him crucified. Only then are we a part of that which cannot be shaken. As children of the King we comprise His spiritual family, the church. May our service to Him never be that of convenience. May our service to Christ always be a matter of conviction.

*Randy Harshbarger*

## The Glory of Grey Hair

The other day I was in a local establishment and ran into a young professional whom I know. I noticed there was a new touch of grey on their temples and it struck me that, far from detracting from their appearance, it actually enhanced it! I am sure that as a young person they might not think so, I didn't when I was their age, but I am much older and greyer now so I can say this.

In America today we seem to worship the idea of staying young forever and seem to have lost the respect for grey hair that is presented to us in the scriptures. The Preacher wrote in **Proverbs 20:29** *"The glory of young men is their strength, And the honor of old men is their gray hair."* And again we are taught in **Leviticus 19:32**, *"You shall rise up before the gray headed and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD."*

Today we seem to have been enamored by another verse found in the prophet Isaiah and even then, we misuse it. The verse is in **Isaiah 11:6**, *"And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them."* We seem to think that this verse means that children ought to be leaders. Well, first it's a figurative description of the Messianic Kingdom, the church, and even in this description it has the child leading the calf and the young lion, not nations and such.

I remember being young and having what seemed to be boundless energy. It was great! But I would not trade the wisdom of age for the energy of youth for anything!

*Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.*

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study  
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship  
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship  
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

### Visitors welcome

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

**Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer**

**Deacons:**

**Bill Miller**

**Brandon Jimison**

**Casey Dent**

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## OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.  
Lenexa, Kansas 66216  
913-764-9170

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[facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist](https://facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist)

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### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK,  
STEPHEN KIMKER, STEVE AND  
SUZANNE WIMP AND ALMA  
BAUMGARTNER'S MOTHER. ALMA IS  
IN KU MED CTR RECOVERING FROM  
INJURIES IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS -  
FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH  
RON PECK

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS -  
THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS  
GOVERNMENT  
JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: WARNINGS AND  
PROMISES OF THE SECOND COMING



## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10