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According to the Pattern

Observation

In every avenue of human activity problems are encountered; the solution demands dependable standards. Chaos and confusion reign when there is no standard; or too many standards. Acceptable standards are used in weights and measures; in definitions and use of words. The lack of an agreeable standard in matters religious has introduced division and discouragement. Is there a dependable standard?

Standard

The Creator has provided his people with a divine standard in every dispensation. He voiced his will to the antediluvians; and gave the law through Moses, which was destined to last until the seed (Christ) came (Gal. 3:16-19). Christ came to fulfill the law (Matt. 5:17); and take it out of the way (Col. 2:14-17). Though but temporary, the law was not to be altered by addition or subtraction (Deut. 12:32); but by the time Christ came to earth many traditions and customs had crept into the religious services, and Christ rebuked them for their transgressions (Matt. 15:1-9). Every transgressor and disobedient received a just recompense of reward (Heb. 2:2, 3). The Old Testament records have been preserved for our learning (Rom. 15:4); and admonition (1 Cor. 10:11). What is our attitude toward the perfect law of liberty?

Pattern

"A model to be imitated; that which is to be copied; a plan." By faith Noah built the ark according to God's commandments—specifications (Gen. 6:22). Moses was admonished to build the tabernacle "according to the pattern" shown him (Heb. 8:5). Solomon's temple was constructed according to the "works of this pattern"

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effort to change the divine pattern (Dan. 7:25). Christ warned about the coming of false Christs and false prophets (Matt. 24:23-26). The man of sin was exposed (2 Thes. 2:1-12), and Paul warned church leaders of two impending dangers (Acts 20:29, 30). Dangerous doctrines (of men) corrupt gospel simplicity (Col. 2:21, 22). The pure church was obscure for hundreds of years (Rev. 12:6); the "mother of harlots" deceived the nations (Rev. 17:5); and some sincere people have been deluded. Such individuals are being called out of "spiritual Babylon" (Rev. 18:4).

Reformation

The corruption of the "mother of harlots" was repulsive to some; and by the first of the sixteenth century Luther, Zwingli, and others began their noble efforts of reformation. Some cannot be reformed because they prefer to be deformed. The aims of the reformers were, in the main, misunderstood by zealots; and during the following centuries hundreds of human churches were introduced to add to religious confusion. In name, work, and worship they were (and are) foreign to the New Testament pattern. Their articles of faith, disciplines, manuals, creeds (written and unwritten) have divided into warring (or compromising) sects, displaying denominational marks contrary to the prayer of our Redeemer (John 17:20-22).

Restoration

The Creator ordained that each seed should produce after its kind (Gen. 1:11). The laws of nature govern sowing and reaping. Men may deceive themselves, but they cannot mock God (Gal. 6:7). The same Creator is the author of spiritual creation. The word of God is the seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11). The apostles sowed the same kind of gospel seed into the hearts of human beings, and the same kind of fruit came forth—Christians only, and only Christians (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:16). The laws of nature have not been altered—wheat produces wheat; and the "law of the Spirit of life" (Rom. 8:2) has not been changed (human efforts to the contrary notwithstanding). Christ's universal and cosmopolitan commission was destined to last until the "end of the world" (Matt. 28:20). Therefore, the unadulterated gospel of Christ, sown in honest hearts, produces Christians after the New Testament pattern—restoring the blood-bought institution (Acts 20:28). The "new and living way" never grows old (Heb. 10:20).

Simplicity

For the sake of humanity, simplicity was predicted for the

church of the Lord (Isa. 55:8). In work and worship the humble Galilean Founder is honored when religious people respect his authority (Matt. 28:18). Pomp and pageantry belong to paganism. Christ built his own church (Matt. 16:18); he loved the church and gave himself for it (Eph. 5:25); he paid the price with his own blood (Acts 20:28). Therefore the church belongs to Christ (Rom. 16:16); and is to be offered without spot or blemish (Eph. 5:26, 27).

What Must I Do?

Under the preaching of the inspired apostles, all were made to realize that they had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Peter's plain preaching pierced their hearts, and believers cried out, asking: "What shall we do?" His reply was sane, and scriptural: "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Glad tidings indeed! When Saul of Tarsus was convinced, he asked: "What wilt thou have me do?" (Acts 9:6). The simple answer was given (Acts 22:16). The jailer asked: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). The answer is brief, the instructions pointed; his obedience led to rejoicing (Vss. 31-34).

The Faith That Saves. Men speak of historical and saving faiths, but the Bible tells of "one faith" (Eph. 4:5). There are degrees: little, weak, dead, strong. Strong faith—more than mere mental assent—avails because it works by love (Gal. 5:6). Christ said: "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Genuine Repentance. The "Goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Rom. 2:4), and godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation that brings no regret (2 Cor. 7:10). Christ said: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9).

Good Confession. Timothy made it in the presence of many witnesses (1 Tim. 6:12). "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9, 10). Peter confessed: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Upon that rock our Lord proposed to build his church (Verse 18). Christ promises to confess before the Father all who confess him before men (Matt. 10:32).

Baptism. Theology speaks of many baptisms, but the Bible tells us about "one baptism" (Eph. 4:5). Believers were baptized into

Christ (Gal. 2:27); into one body (1 Cor. 12:13); which is the church (Col. 1:18). Water was the element in which the believer was baptized (Acts 8:36-39; 10:47, 48). The form was a burial and a resurrection. (Rom. 6:1-4). Christ's promised reached (Mark 16:16).

In Christ. There is salvation (Ac. 4:12); redemption from sin (Eph. 1:7); and a new creature (II Cor. 5:17). The Lord's day assembly must not be forsaken (Heb. 10:25); and Christians must grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18).

Conclusion

Which way, friend, are you going? (Matt. 7:13, 14). Why not make your calling and election sure? (II Pet. 1:10). Our religious standard in Christianity must accord with the word of God (Rev. 11:2). You can qualify if you will (Rev. 22:17).

Monroe (Near) 5th Cottage Grove, Ore.
J. Emmett Walnwright Evangelist (adv.)

ATTENDS CONVENTION

Mrs. H. A. Hagen and Mrs. Cecil Caldwell attended the Oregon Music Teachers' 30th annual convention, which was held in Portland Monday and Tuesday of this week. Monday's all day session which was held at the Portland Woman's club opened with a lecture by D. Theodore Kratt, Dean of Music at the University of Oregon, on "The Influence of Electronics on Music of the Future." In the afternoon Donald Alton, professor of organ at the University, lectured on "Musical Tests and Measurements."

Monday evening a banquet at the Benson hotel was followed by a concert given by the association contest winners for the state.

Tuesday's program consisted of lectures and demonstrations of work in creative music which was given by teachers from the Cornish school in Seattle.

The following pupils of Mrs. Hagen were presented with merit certificates by the association for the completion of 40 weeks study throughout the year: Tom and Mary Bricher, Larry Ashbridge, Enid Ann LaBlue, Alfred Wulff, Dorothy Baker, Virginia Dailey, Pauline and Betty Dyksterhuis, Albert and W. C. Martin Jr., Bonnie Gleason and Mary Ann Hall.



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