

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Pattern

"Our biggest failure is our failure to see patterns." – Marilyn Ferguson

"Be a pattern to others and then all will go well." – Marcus Cicero

"We can see a predictable pattern." – Anthea Coster

"To understand is to perceive patterns." – Isaiah Berlin

"No, I will be the pattern of all patience; I will say nothing." – William Shakespeare

Throughout our lives we are subject to a vast amount of patterns. We use them with making clothes, cars, houses, boats, stores, bicycles, motorcycles, etc. We are more dependent upon them that you may realize.

Would it surprise you to find out that patterns were an important part of Scripture? In fact, the word pattern is used some 13 times in the Bible.

Even going back to the days of the Old Testament with the construction of the tabernacle. "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it" (Exod. 25:9; 25:40; 26:30). "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen" (Acts 7:44). (Although the word pattern is not used, the same could be said with Noah's construction of the ark – Gen. 6:14-16.) "Who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, 'See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain'" (Heb. 8:5).

In the New Testament, there is a spiritual application. "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern" (Phil. 3:17). "However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life" (1 Tim. 1:16).

The apostle Paul admonished Timothy: "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13). To Titus: "In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility" (Titus 2:7).

A true pattern (Greek, *tupos*) seeks to be a stamp, die (as struck), or model of our Lord and Savior. It is a worthy challenge for all of us. "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). May each one of us strive to be more like Christ, the ultimate pattern!