

# **EVIDENCE OF PATTERNS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

## **THE PLAN OF SALVATION:**

When the various passages on this subject are read, we see that we are to believe in the Gospel message, repent of our sins, make some sort of statement of faith in Christ as the Son of God, and then be buried into the death of Christ in baptism in to be saved, to have our sins forgiven, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, to be clothed with Christ, to receive the Holy Spirit, and to be added by the Lord to His church (John 3:1-5, Mark 16:15-16, Matt. 28:19-20, Rom. 10:8-10, Acts 2:38-41,47, 8:12-13, 25-39, 9:17-18 (22:12-16), 10:47-48, 16:14-15, 31-33, 18:8, 19:1-5, Rom. 6:1-18, Gal. 3:26-27, Eph. 4:4-5, 5:25-27, Col. 2:9-12, 1 Pet. 3:21.

## **CHURCH WORSHIP:**

In the New Testament there are many passages that speak of the various parts of worship that are to be included when we meet together (Heb. 10:23-25). These include male leadership in the corporate worship (1 Tim. 2:8-12, 3:14-15, 1 Cor. 14:34-38), singing (Eph. 5:18-20, Col. 16-17, Heb. 13:15, 2:11-12, 1 Cor. 14:15), study of the word - the reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13-16, Col. 4:16-17, Acts 20:7, Acts 2:42), prayer (Acts 2:42, 1 Cor. 14:15-16, 1 Tim. 2:1-8), the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-30, Luke 22:14-29, Luke 24:30-31, John 20:19, 28 (Jesus met with his disciples on the two Sundays after His resurrection), Acts 2:42, 20:7, 21 :4, 28:14 (Paul stays 7 days in Tyre and Puteoli perhaps to "break bread" as he had at Troas), the contribution (1 Cor. 16:1-2 ...all churches are agreed on this!). When people in New Testament times strayed from the pattern given them, or seemed to forget what it was or what it meant, they were reminded of the original teaching as in the case of baptism (Rom.1-18), as to being no longer under Law, but under Grace (Gal. 5:1-10), in the case of profaning the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:17-30), in the case of falling away from their former obedience (Heb. 10:32-39, Rev. 2:5).

## **CHURCH ORGANIZATION:**

That there were elders (also called bishops or pastors) and deacons in the early church by Divine instruction is clearly taught. (1 Tim. 3:1-15, Titus 1:5-16, Phil. 1:1, Acts 14:21-23, 15:15:4, 1 Pet. 1-5). In addition, there were to be evangelists and teachers (Eph. 4:11-12).

The church is further instructed how to deal with persons who sin unrepentantly and bring reproach on the church (Matt. 18:15-17, 1 Cor. 5:1-13). It also tells how to have a proper spirit in the process (Gal. 6:1), and how to receive them back into the fellowship when they repent (2 Cor. 2:4-8).

We are instructed as to how we are to live and be profitable laborers in the Lord's vineyard, and as to how we are to avoid sin (Rom. 12:1-21, Gal. 5:16-26, Eph. 4:17-32, Phil. 2:1-18, James 2:1-27, 2 Pet. 1:2-1 1 ...just to name a few!

We are also given an advance menu to understand what will happen when the Lord comes again to "judge the living and the dead." (John 5:25-29, 1 Cor. 15:20-58, 1 Thes. 4:13-18, Rev. 20:11-15, 21:10-27).

The capstone of passages that teach we are to be guided in everything by the Word which is "Spirit breathed" is 2 Tim. 3:16-17. In this passage we are told that inspired Scripture serves the purpose of TEACHING (from DIDASKO) meaning for instruction or teaching (the "sound doctrine of which Paul speaks CM), for REBUKING (elegmos) convicting one in error, CORRECTING (EPANORTHOSIS) setting straight, and TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (PAIDEIA) training in right conduct (College Press NIV Commentary on 1, 2 Timothy & Titus, C.M. Moss, p. 232).

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