

Philippians 3:17-19

The Pattern We Must Follow

Introduction:

A pattern is like a blueprint for the construction of a building. All the necessary drawings and measurements are included along with the kinds of material used. It is interesting to know that Moses was also an engineer. His former training equipped him for spiritual ministry as far as the building of the tabernacle was concerned. Exodus 25-28 – give us all the intricate details to construct the tabernacle for the worship of God. Heb. 8:5 “They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, “See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” What is real as a physical structure is the spiritual structure for our lives as Christians. (Rom. 6:17)

I. False Teacher’s Example

A. Our former walk – Eph. 2:2-5

1. Paul’s theme of the chapter is to “press on” Rom. 8:29
2. John Mac Arthur’s comment

B. Four Marks of the Enemies of the Cross:

1. Their doom – v. 19a “whose end is destruction”; II Thess. 1:9
2. Their deity – v. 19b. “Whose god is their appetite” I Cor. 6:13
3. Their disgrace – v.19c. “whose glory is their shame” cf. 3:8
4. Their disposition – v.19d. “set their minds on earthly things” Jam. 4:4; I John 2:15

II. Paul’s and Other Christians Example – v.17

A. Mimic Paul- II Thess. 3:7,9; Heb. 13:7 cf. 3:12

B. Follow other Christians who mimic Paul v. 16 “walk in a straight row

1. The biography of A. W. Pink by Iain Murray
2. C. S. Lewis illustrates the church like a fleet of ships – Psa. 1:1-2

C. The Greatest pattern to follow – The Scriptures and the Spirit’s leading – Turn To: I Peter 1:23-25

D. Sanctification

1. Sanctified by the Word – John 17:17
2. Augustine’s struggle with the flesh – (“his confessions”) Rom. 13:13-14

Conclusion:

The early Christians during the time when the book of Hebrews was written, they had not grown because of their struggle with Judaism’s sacrificial system. (Heb. 5:11-14; 6:1-3) The sacrifice they should have been engaged in was the sacrifice of praise – Heb. 15,16