



Rebuilding our Church Pt 4: Built upon The Apostolic Pattern and an Eternal Perspective!

July 26, 2020

Holy Texts: 1 Tim 3:14-16; 2 Tim 1:12-15; 2 Thes 2:13-17

- One more time: Welcome to [Calvary Reformation Church!](#) 😊🙌🙏🙏
- Scripture says, "**Psalms 11:3-5 (KJV)** If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? **4** The LORD *is* in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne *is* in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. **5** The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
- We are endeavoring to make sure our foundation is build upon the Rock of Christ and His Word alone:

Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV) *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: **25** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. **26** And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: **27** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

- It's Reformation Time!

To review:

1. **The Church must be built upon Christ** (1 Cor 3:11); upon the truth that Jesus is LORD (1 Cor 12:3), that the Church belongs to Him (Matt 16:18), one day He shall judge it (Jam 5:8-9).
2. **The Church must be built upon Christ's Gospel:** "...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1 Cor 15:3-4)
1. **The Church must be built upon Love: towards God and one another!** (Jn 13:34-35)
*The Great Commandment: **Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV)** Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **38** This is the first and great commandment. **39** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*
2. **The Church must be built upon the Power of God!** (Lk 24:46-49) We need His power to be witnesses...to be martyrs for Christ! **Acts 1:8 (KJV)** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

In closing last week, we prayed: "May [Calvary Reformation Church](#) be characterized by the Presence of God. May we be able to declare like Paul:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (KJV) *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. **2** For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him*

crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. **4** And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: **5** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Amen!

Built upon the Apostolic Pattern and an Eternal Perspective!

- **1 Timothy 3:14-16 (KJV)** *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: **15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. **16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*
- **2 Timothy 1:12-15 (KJV)** *For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. **13** Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. **14** That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. **15** This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.*
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 (KJV)** *But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **14** Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. **16** Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, **17** Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*

Observations and Thoughts on 1 Tim 3:14-16; 2 Tim 1:12-15; 2 Thes 2:13-17

1. First, as a general observation, we must see the Apostles' Words as **Holy Scripture** and binding upon the Church.
 - It's sad that these truth even needs to be affirmed in our day, but it does! Many play the Jesus vs Paul game for example; this greatly hurts the LORD's church!
 - The Words given to us in the Bible by Paul, Peter, James, John, etc. are the very words of God. They are binding and authoritative:

2 Peter 3:14-16 (KJV) *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. **15** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; **16** As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.*

John 17:18-20 (KJV) *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word:*

Acts 2:42 (KJV) *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

1 Corinthians 11:1-2 (KJV) *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.*

1 Corinthians 4:17 (KJV) *For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.*

1 Corinthians 14:37 (KJV) *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are **the commandments of the Lord.***

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (KJV) *Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (KJV) *And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*

Matthew 16:19 (KJV) *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

- Again, the Apostles' Words (and their traditions/ordinances) were and are authoritative and binding upon the Church!
2. Consequently, there is an **apostolic pattern**, a **prescribed** way in which the Church of Jesus Christ was to be ordered.
- Recall, Paul said there was a way that Timothy and the church was supposed to "behave." (1 Tim 3:15) This implies that there are ways NOT to behave as well.
 - This is important; the church is the pillar and ground of truth. From William MacDonald: "The church is spoken of as the pillar and ground of the truth. A pillar was not only used to support a structure, but oftentimes a pillar was set up in a public marketplace and notices were posted on it. It was thus a proclaimer. The church is the unit on earth which God has chosen to proclaim and display His truth. It is also the ground of the truth. Here **ground** carries the thought of foundation or supporting structure. This pictures the church as that which is entrusted with the defense and support of the truth of God."

- **Amen! The church is given the responsibility of demonstrating to the world the truths of God. When we are out of apostolic order, we fail in that!**
 - Note the eternal perspective in 1 Timothy 3:16. The motive for such devotion to the pattern is the Gospel! (Important for those who hold that such devotion is legalism!)
3. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul again commands **holding** to the pattern (2 Tim 1:13).
- The NLT says here: *“Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me—a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. **14** Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.” **2 Timothy 1:13-14 (NLT)***
 - What is the Pattern? In our view, the Pattern can be described as:

The fundamental doctrines, expressions, and traditions given to the Church by Christ through the New Testament writers.

The *Pattern* is simply:

Who Christ intended His church to be, what He intended it to teach, and the way He designed it to operate. All of this is clearly illustrated in the New Testament.

- Inspiringly, surrounding Paul’s *prescription* to “hold fast” is Paul’s stated *perspective*! He said:
 - I suffer for these things (2 Tim 1:12)
 - I’m not ashamed! (2 Tim 1:12)
 - I know whom I have believed! (2 Tim 1:12)
 - I am persuaded...until the last day! (2 Tim 1:12)
 - That good thing...keep by the Holy Ghost! (2 Tim 1:14)
 - By implication, “keep” even if some turn away from you! (2 Tim 1:15)
- His paradigm was Christ! His willingness to suffer to rightly establish the church and preach the Gospel was predicated upon Him who kept him: Jesus!
- This is the perceptive we need as well! He said to the church at Rome:

Romans 8:35-39 (KJV) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **37** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **38** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Hallelujah!

4. In his second letter to the Church at Thessalonica, once again we see the apostolic **precept** to “stand fast, and hold the traditions” (2 Thess 2:15)!
 - The word tradition (*paradosis* in Greek) means “a handing down; a giving over.” (Vines, Thayer’s).
 - Vine’s Expository Dictionary says it means the “Traditions or instructions concerning the gathering of believers. The apostle’s use of the word in 2 Thes 2:15 constitutes a denial that what he preached originated with himself; it is a claim for its divine authority.”

5. So once again, the believers are encouraged to hold fast and not to deviate from the patterns, instructions, and **ordinances** given by the apostles.
 - This would include how church is to organize itself (1 Tim 3:1-13), meet together (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2), preach (2 Cor 4:5; Gal 1:8; 1 Tim 4:11-16; 2 Tim 4:1-5), pray (1 Cor 11:2-16; 1 Tim 2:8; Jam 5:16), worship (Eph 5:18-19; Col 3:16), exercise gifts (1 Cor 14:26-40), fellowship (Acts 2:42; 1 Pet 4:9), love each other (Col 3:14; 1 Pet 4:8), and administer the sacraments (1 Cor 11:17-34; Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38).
 - This would also include how its households should function. (Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18-25; Titus 2:1-8; 1 Pet 3:1-7).

6. As Voddie Baucham said, the epistles show us how the church is to be **ordered!** (1 Cor 11:34, 14:40; Titus 1:5)
 - To build upon the apostolic pattern is to build upon a firm foundation!
 - And again, surrounding the commands to faithfulness to the apostolic pattern is a perspective; almost like Paul knew this would be hard!
 - Paul encourages the Thessalonians in their salvation and sanctification by the Spirit, that they might trust in God alone and not themselves. (2 Thess 2:13)
 - He reminds them that God thought about them and chose them “from the beginning!”
 - He reminds them that they have been called and chosen by Christ to receive the Gospel and will share in the glory of Jesus Christ! (2 Thess 2:14).
 - This is another way of saying that they are “destined for glory, not judgment” (John MacArthur) in heaven!
 - His prayer for them in the last two verses is rooted in this sort of heart, rooted in God’s love, rooted in everlasting consolation, rooted in hope and grace and comfort that they might be established in every good work! (2 Thess 2:16-17)

Hallelujah again!

1. **So what say you then [Calvary Reformation Church](#)? Are you willing to “behave thyself in the house of God” according to apostolic commands? Are you willing to “hold fast the form of sound words” which we heard from the apostles of Christ? Are you willing to “stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught?”**
 - Are we willing to lay down our ideas and pick up His? Our plans for His? Our desires for His will? Are we willing to humble ourselves that He might be exalted?
 - May the Words of the writer of Hebrews inspire us to build rightly and righteously upon the pattern set forth in Scripture:

Hebrews 12:22-29 (KJV) *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, **23** To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24** And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. **25** See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: **26** Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. **27** And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. **28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: **29** For our God is a consuming fire.*

Amen!