

## **“According to the Pattern”: Does It Still Apply?**

- A. “Four blind men are walking along when they come upon an elephant...” - a popular modern parable.
1. One of the blind men grabs the elephant’s trunk and declares, “This is a big snake.”
  2. Another blind man wraps his arms around the elephant’s leg and tells the others, “This is a tree.”
  3. The third blind man grasps the elephant’s tail and theorizes, “This is a rope.”
  4. The final blind man runs his hand along the elephant’s side and says, “This is a wall.”
- B. Why were all the blind men wrong? “God is like the elephant!” so says the popular analogy.
- C. There is one major detail left out of this parable: **the elephant has \_\_\_\_\_!**
1. *1 Corinthians 2:9-16* - “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit.”
  2. *2 Timothy 3:14-17* - “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable...”
  3. *2 Peter 1:16-21* - “we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed...”

### **I. A “Pattern” of Obedient Submission in the Old Testament**

- A. Adam and Eve: “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat” (*Gen 2:17*)
- B. Noah: “Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him” (*Gen 7:5; Heb 11:7*)
- C. Moses: “Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle...” (*Exo 25:8-9*)
1. “You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it...” (*Deut 4:2*)
  2. **WHY?** Because God is awesome in holiness and will be glorified (*Lev 10:3; 9:22-10:2*)

### **II. “According to the Pattern”: Does It Still Apply?**

- A. Christians: “Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent...” (*Heb 8:1-6*)
1. “All \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven and on earth has been given to me...” (*Matt 28:18*)
  2. “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will \_\_\_\_\_ you into all the truth...” (*John 16:12-13*)
  3. “The things I am writing to you are a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord” (*1 Cor 14:37*)
- B. Our responsibility? “\_\_\_\_\_ the pattern of the sound words” (*2 Tim 1:13*)
1. \_\_\_\_\_ (*Rom 6:17-18, 2-4; Matt 28:19-20*)
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ (*Eph 1:22-23*)
    - a. Her organizational structure (*Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 3; Tit 1*)
    - b. Her mission (*1 Tim 3:15; Tit 2:1; Eph 4:11-12; 1 Thes 1:8*)
    - c. Her worship (*John 4:24*)
    - d. Her boundaries of fellowship (*2 John 9*)
  3. Our individual \_\_\_\_\_ with God (*1 Pet 2:21*)
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_ just as the Father has taught us (*John 8:28*)
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_ what the Father has shown us (*John 5:19*)
- C. Seeking the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Father above all else (*John 7:18*)
- C. The stakes? (*Gal 1:6-10*) **Do you want to be a servant of Christ?**