

A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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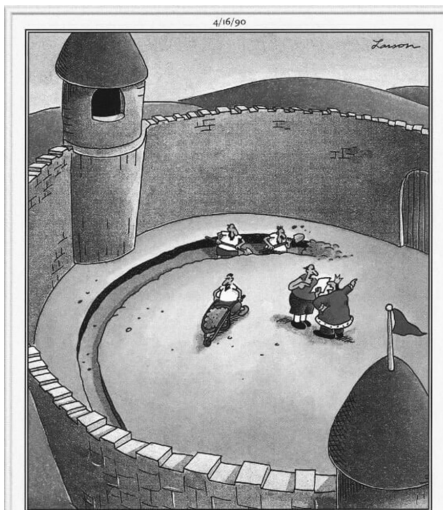
ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

"...just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for 'see', He says, 'That you make all things according to the pattern which was shown to you on the mountain.'" (Hebrews 8:5)

Isn't it so mystifying as to why it is so hard for some people to simply follow directions? After all, there isn't any logical reason why it should be that difficult, but sadly for too many it seemingly is! Maybe the problem centers itself around the fact that they simply don't HEAR what is being said. Now, that is not to imply they are physically challenged with hearing. They can HEAR but they opt not to listen to what they have heard. The word HEAR clearly involves, listening carefully, then to learn and apply what has been heard. Hearing also involves the acquiring of information upon which to act. So it is willful act on the part of an individual to not follow the prescribed directions.

Speaking in terms of a spiritual nature, it is more than apparent that God has set forth a concise pattern, which He expects to be followed. HEAR what Paul says to the brethren in Ephesus, for he speaks not only of a pattern to be followed, but also of purpose and design. All of which is to be carried out under the watchful eyes of the Divine Architect. *"In order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be*

made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Ephesians 3:10-11)



Suddenly, a heated exchange took place between the king and the moat contractor.

The Far Side

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Earlier in the epistle, Paul pointed out that, *"we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10) One has to be impressed with the various illustrations and word choices that Paul uses in Ephesians that are akin to the construction of a building. All of which goes to the point of following specific instructions. A blue-print, a Divine Pattern as found in the pages of the Scripture.

God has laid out a unique ONENESS in His word (see Ephesians 4:3-6) a ONENESS all would be wise to accept and apply. For there is but ONE WAY that God has so stipulated that will be found acceptable. So, all that mankind needs to do is simply follow what has been set forth in His pattern. Nothing more and nothing less.

Isn't it difficult to not understand ONE? Just as difficult to understand why the majority refuse to follow the pattern set in place by God. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."* (Colossians 3:17) (wbe)

THE BULWARK