

#### **4. Following the New Testament Pattern for Obedience and Worship**

Many of the innovations of our day are additions to the New Testament pattern for worship and additions to the divine plan for the fellowship of true believers. Many are teaching that anything goes in worship and that the non-baptized believers can have fellowship: we with them and they with us. Those who advance such innovations have deserted the New Testament as the inspired word of God for our age.

**These false teachings happen in spite of the repeated teachings that tell us to hold the pattern of sound words.** In 2 Tim 1:13, Paul wrote, "What you heard from me, keep as the pattern [Gr. *Tupos*, pattern] of sound teaching." NIV. Paul also commends the Roman church for obeying the pattern of teaching: "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form [Gr. *Tupos*, pattern] of teaching to which you were committed." Rom 6:17-18. Further, Paul admonished the Philippians: "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern [Gr. *Tupos*, pattern] you have in us." Phil 3:16-17. The New Testament pattern for worship equips us for *every good work*: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." 2 Tim 3:16-17.

**The New Testament pattern for obedience to the gospel is** hearing the word of God (Rom 10:14-16, John 6:44-45), believing the word of God (Mk 16:16, Heb 11:6, Acts 8:37) repenting of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30, 2 Pet 3:9) confessing the name of Jesus (Mt 10:32, Rom 10:9, Phil 2:11) and being baptized unto the remission of sins (Mk 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, 1 Pet 3:21).

**The New Testament pattern for worship is** singing (Eph 5:19, Col 3:16), praying (Acts 2:42), fellowship or giving (Acts 2:42, 1 Cor 16:1-2), partaking of the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7, 1 Cor 11:23-34), and preaching and teaching (Acts 2:42, Acts 20:7).

**Those who obey the gospel are added to the church** in Acts 2:47: "And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved." Paul affirmed that baptism is the act by which we enter the body of baptized believers in 1 Cor 12:13: "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

**The saved are in the church, and the church is the called out body of the saved.**