



Apple Valley Church of Christ

Seeking and Saving The Lost...

We are honored and blessed to have you worshipping with us today and we extend our warmest welcome. Our service is modeled after the New Testament pattern of worship. If you have questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.

Please Pray for:

Health - Zandra, Ebony, Wanda and Peaches, Prince, Leola, Thom and Mary Elizabeth, Irma, TC, Rene Formantes, Tonette Kirkland, the Hadnot's granddaughter Maya, Michael's grandfather. Sister Hawkins mother.
Surgery - Lenard, Lorena in February.
Also - The well being of Kevin Williams and family.

Today's Services

- Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Singing
- Preaching
- Invitation Song
- Communion Song
- Communion
- Offering
- Announcements
- Closing Song

Men's Training Class
Saturday January 6th
9:00 AM

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear	Romans 10:17
Believe	Mark 16:15-16
Repent	Luke 13:3-5
Confess	Matthew 10:32-33
Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Live Faithfully	Revelation 2:10



Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 AM
Sunday Worship	11:00AMAM
Wednesday Class	7:00 PM

Yearly Congregational Meeting

January 13th following worship.



A Pattern for the New Year

by Robert Johnson

In Greek society, learning to write the letters of the alphabet was very important, seeing as everything was done by hand. The writing master would draw the letters in soft wax, and underneath these the student would make a copy. The line the master wrote was the “pattern” that the student had to follow. Sometimes, the schoolmaster would take the student’s hand and guide it along the letters to help emphasize the pattern in both feel and mind. This would emphasize the pattern and help the student not to make as many mistakes. Eventually, with practice and fixing it in the mind of the student, one would be able to imitate the form for writing until it became second nature. Pupils would be able to write correctly without thinking about it.

The same word used for the pattern used in the Greek schools is used in the New Testament of the pattern it gives us by which to live. God has always dealt with His people through a pattern. In the Old Testament, the Law was given as a pattern to be followed. Instructions for the construction of the tabernacle is an example of an Old Testament pattern (Hebrews 8:5). The New Testament gives us a pattern of how to worship (John 4:24). It gives us a pattern for how the church is to be organized and carry out its work (1 Timothy 3:15). The New Testament gives us a pattern of submission in our personal lives, conforming our wills to the will of God. Jesus said to His disciples, “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done for you. Truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them” (John 13:15-17).

Peter reminds us, “For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for

you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21). It is amazing to consider the Son of God becoming flesh and blood, to offer Himself as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (“suffered for you”), but He also goes with each of us through life, helping every one of us to “follow in His steps.” Such promises are found in passages like Hebrews 13:5, which reads, “Be satisfied with what you have, for He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’” Paul assures us of this as well, referring to his own experience in Philippians 4:13, where it says, “I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.” He also stated, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

As we think of what the New Year may bring, we will find God’s blessings for us if we follow the pattern God offers us in His Word. These patterns are not random or arbitrary by nature. They are offered in the infinite wisdom of God for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4). Patterns are not suggestions or opinions, but they are the inspired will of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God’s pattern for us is not mere rules or regulations but a way for life. Paul spoke of following God’s pattern (Philippians 3:17), and commended it to us, as it provides for us to experience the peace of God (Philippians 4:9). It is truly the way to God’s richest blessings for us.

May the Word of God dwell in us richly in this new year (Colossians 3:16), and may we find the best life possible by making it our own will to live (Romans 12:2). “I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).

The Resurrection “Cover-up Story”

by Royce Frederick

The religious leaders had worked very hard to have Jesus executed by the Roman government. He was finally in the tomb, and they were determined to keep Him there. With the permission of the Roman governor Pilate, the enemies of Jesus sealed His tomb and placed soldiers there to guard it.

However, early on the first day of the week, some of those soldiers came to the religious leaders and disturbed them with the “bad news” that Jesus was no longer in the tomb. The leaders quickly decided to try to cover up the truth by giving the soldiers a bribe. They “... gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, ‘Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.’ So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day” (Matthew 28:12-15).

The religious leaders could not keep the tomb of Jesus sealed and occupied. So, they tried to seal the lips of the soldiers. Notice how ridiculous their “cover-up story” was.

- The penalty for falling asleep during guard duty was usually death. Therefore, we should become highly suspicious at the open claim by the soldiers that they had fallen asleep.
- Our suspicion should be further aroused by the governor’s failure to execute the soldiers.
- We should also be suspicious at the absence of outrage by the

religious leaders. We would expect them to demand the execution of the soldiers.

- The “guard” or “watch” of soldiers at the tomb included several soldiers (Matthew 28:11-12). It is strange for some of the soldiers to claim that they were all asleep at one time.
- It is totally unreasonable to believe that the disciples could roll away the large stone and steal the body of Jesus so quietly that a group of sleeping soldiers would not be disturbed.
- It is absurd for the soldiers to claim that they knew what happened and who did it, while at the same time claiming they were asleep.
- With the Roman soldiers as “witnesses,” our suspicion should be raised even higher by the fact that no attempt was made to arrest the disciples on the charge of grave robbing.

There was no dispute at all concerning the fact that Jesus of Nazareth actually lived, that He died on the cross and that His tomb became empty. Even the bitter enemies of Jesus did not deny these facts. Instead, those enemies tried to explain how His tomb became empty. Their ridiculous “cover-up story” serves as

testimony from His enemies that the tomb of Jesus did indeed become empty! It is not surprising that thousands of people believed the testimony of the witnesses who saw the risen Lord, rather than believing the “cover-up story” (Acts 2:32-41; 4:4; 5:14; 6:7).

