



**THE PATTERN AND ITS  
PRODUCE**

2 Timothy 1:12-14

# IT'S NOT A "GIVEN"

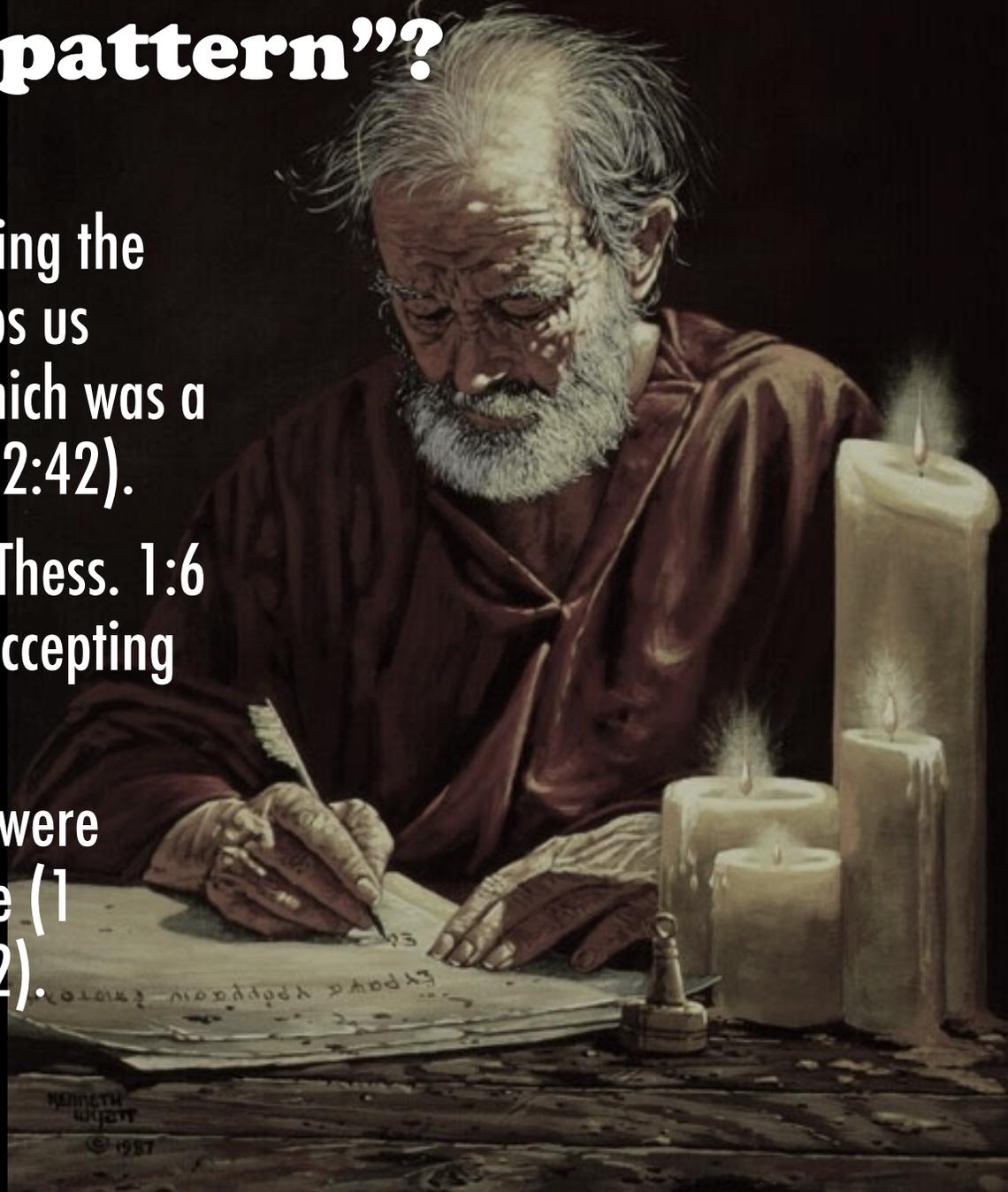
- Matthew 13:3-9 – It's not a "given" that seed will produce a plant. It shouldn't be taken for granted. However, given the right conditions and preparation, as well as appropriate follow-through, a seed will, by design, produce something. This will be true from generation to generation. A thousand years from now, a sunflower seed will still produce a sunflower.
- In the same way, the Word of God is like a seed that will, by design, produce Christian faith if followed in the right way. The gospel message resulted in Christians during the time of Paul and Peter and continues to produce them today, in spite of our incredible cultural and linguistic differences.

# “KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS”

- Jesus didn't present “the word” as some nebulous concept. The gospel was not just a story, and His words were not merely informative or interesting. Following His example and walking in His ways produced distinctive discipleship (John 13:15, 34-35).
- His words were commandments (John 15:4, 14:15, 14:21-23, 15:12-14). His disciples understood that Jesus' words and example carried universal authority (1 John 2:3-6, 5:1-3, 2 Pet. 3:2).
- One cannot be a Christian without submitting to the words of Jesus and His apostles (who were instructed to carry His words to the world [Luke 24:46ff, Acts 1:8]). But as for those apostles...

# Did the apostles even want their words used as a “pattern”?

- 2 Thess. 2:15, 1 Cor. 11:2 – Following the pattern of the New Testament keeps us grounded in apostolic teaching, which was a hallmark of the early church (Acts 2:42).
- Paul used the term “imitate” in 1 Thess. 1:6 and 2:13-14. He lauded them for accepting his words as if from the Lord.
- They also believed their teachings were applicable to all people for all time (1 Corinthians 14:37, 4:17, 2 Peter 3:2).





**WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE  
PATTERN?**

2 Timothy 1:12-14

- **HONOR IS AT STAKE** – If we truly wish to honor God, we will do so on His terms (and without complaint). In so doing, we will be honored by God (John 12:26, 2 Tim. 2:21, 1 Sam. 2:30).
- **IDENTITY IS AT STAKE** – False doctrine led many astray in the First Century, as it does today (2 Thess. 2:10-12, 1 Tim. 4:1ff, 2 John 7-10). If our worship and beliefs are not determined by the pattern in the New Testament, then what? Human preference? Manmade tradition? Convenience? Every departure from apostolic authority takes us another step further from pure Christianity!
- **SALVATION IS AT STAKE** – The elements of our faith and how we express it are worth fighting for (1 Tim. 6:12-16). Earlier in the letter, the apostle connects Timothy's proper presentation and practice of sound doctrine with "salvation both for yourself and those who hear you" (4:11-16).

A photograph of a church interior, showing rows of white pews with dark wood trim and a carpeted aisle. The lighting is warm, and the background shows a doorway and some wall decorations. Overlaid on the image is a quote in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

**“YOU DON’T LOOK  
VERY MUCH LIKE  
THE FIRST  
CENTURY  
CHURCH TO ME!”**

# WHAT IS THE PATTERN?

- While it's true that we might not look or sound very much like what you would find in a First Century congregation, good Bible study will reveal what is and is not part of the pattern prescribed by Jesus and His apostles.
- Early Christians spoke many different languages, and heard the gospel in their own language in Acts 2:6ff. So clearly, one does not need to sound like them to follow the pattern.
- They met in a variety of places for worship (a school house, an upper room, the temple), whatever was convenient for them. Clearly, one does not need to meet in a specific kind of place to follow the pattern (John 4:21-24).
- They worshiped in a way that was spiritually stimulating and thoughtful (1 Cor. 14:7-16), depending on the need of the moment and the gifts of those present. Clearly, then, one does not need to precisely emulate every aspect of their worship to follow the pattern.



**IF WE FOLLOW THE  
PATTERN,  
THEN THE GOOD SEED  
PRODUCES  
CHRISTIANS**