

The Pattern of Sound Words

How are you doing today? This is a simple question, but the possible answers are infinite in number. Good is the most likely response but what the other person answers is completely unpredictable. Why is that? It is because this question is asking for a subjective response. The answer is subjective because the answer changes with each subject or person. Depending on the person, the answer could be, "I'm having a great day," or, "This has been a terrible day."

Why bring this up? This simple truth is presented in order to set up a contrast. Many people have made religion into a subjective belief system. This bulletin is going to search in the Scriptures in order to see if the Bible is a subjective book or an objective book.

Objective is the idea that the subject does not matter, but an object has supplied an uniform answer. When one asks, "What is two plus two?" There is an objective answer of "four". If someone answered anything other than "four," then they are wrong. Once again, a simple truth. The objects of logic and mathematics have already predetermined that the answer is "four" every time that question is asked.

In II Timothy 1:13, the apostle Paul tells Timothy, "*Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*" A pattern is an objective standard. If two people take the same pattern and both use only that pattern, then they are going to make the same thing. Society uses patterns all of the time, even though they are not aware of it. When one bakes they use a recipe and when one builds a building they use a blueprint. Both of these are examples of a pattern. Timothy was commanded to use a, "*pattern of sound words.*" Timothy learned these words from the apostle Paul.

Paul instructed the Corinthians in I Corinthians 4:6 to, "*not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other.*" Paul had obviously written a "*pattern of sound words*" that these brethren were commanded to not go beyond. If they went beyond what they were taught then division would occur. Why is that? Because if these words that were written were subjective, each determined what to do with them, then no one would agree with each other. Because they were objective words, each person had to answer the same thing, in accordance with what is written, and if they answered anything different then they were wrong.

II Timothy 3:16-17 not only states, "*Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness,*" but also states that by holding to these sound words one can, "*be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.*" If one is "*complete*" and is "*furnished completely,*" they do not need anything else. If they went beyond what was provided or did not take all that was provided, they would fall short of completeness.

One of the common beliefs in those who claim to be religious is the answer to, "What must I do to be saved?" is a subjective answer. Some believe that this answer is something each person must decide for themselves. It has been shown that the Bible has a "*pattern of sound words*" that is able to make one "*complete, furnished completely unto every good work.*" If these statements are true than one must follow the pattern within the Bible in order to answer the above question. If one goes, "*beyond what is written,*" than they are destined to cause division and "*be puffed up for the one against the other.*" That is exactly what is out in the world today. Society says that every person can find their own way to heaven and do what ever is write in there own eyes instead of God's. If everyone would just sit together and open their Bibles with an open mind, the problems could be solved according to the pattern and unity would be the result.

The article will conclude with an other command from Paul given to Timothy, may everyone reflect on what was written and strive not to go beyond it: "*Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee.*"