

Pattern for all Complicated Products

- Concept conceived: The birth of invention
- Method devised
- Invention developed
- Perfected through many revisions
- Final prototype
- Means of production
- Final product comes off the assembly line
- Transistor radio, cassette, VCR, DVD
- Calculator, computer, hard drive, TV,
- Camera, film, polaroid, digital
- Multitudes and multitudes of other things.

A Child's Imitation

- We can only do these things because:
- We are created in the image and likeness of God our Father in heaven.
- We were given dominion and the right to subdue.
- *So God created man in His own image; **in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** 28 Then **God blessed them**, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Gen. 1:28*

God' Plans in Eternity

- chose us in Him **before foundation of the world,**
- predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ
- His own purpose and grace which was **given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,**
- gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the **revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began** Eph 1:3-6; 2Tim. 1:9-10; Rom 16:25
- the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was **foreordained before the foundation of the world,** but was manifest in these last times for you 1Pet 1:19
- in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, **promised before time began,** Titus 1:2

Revealed & Accomplished by Jesus Christ

- *the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in **God who created all things through Jesus Christ**; 10 to the **intent** that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, 11 according to **the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**, Eph. 3:8-11*
- Hidden from the beginning of the ages
- For this purpose:
- Manifold wisdom of God made known by church
- In accord with the eternal purpose

The Church Functioning and Operational

*For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ** Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:1-10*

*Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Cor 5:16*

*God planned the creation (you **made alive when dead**) planned gospel to bring raw materials (make disciples of all nations) Mt 28:18-20*

purchase the church with His own blood. Acts 20:28

All of this to “purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:14).

This is God's Eternal Purpose

- The goal of His foreknowledge, predestination, calling and election.
- *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to **those who are the called according to His purpose**. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren Rom 8:28-30*
- This is the purpose for the church. It takes in sinners and creates saints using Christ as the template to we are conformed. He was the firstborn, but the church has made many brethren

The Biggest Difference

- Between man's products and God's is Freewill.
- In the church, the product is an eternal soul with freewill and complete control over thoughts, plans, and goals. God foretold when Jesus began to reign:
Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power. Ps 110:3
- God created His minimum standards, wrote them into the gospel, and then allowed each person who hears it the right to volunteer or reject it.

The Simple Truth

- God calls through the gospel (2Th. 2:13-14),
- He offers those dead in their own trespasses the chance to be made alive. The moment:
- *“you were buried with Him in baptism,” “you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God.”* Then, *“you, being dead in your trespasses” “He has made alive together with Him.”* (Col. 2:12-14; Eph. 2:1-10).
- We becomes God’s *“workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,”* by our choice. We
- *received the word of God, welcomed it as the word of God, which energizes works you who believe.*

Called Then Chosen

- All products judged by its performance.
- If it works it is praised, if it fails, it is thrown away
- Exactly mirrors our own call and new creation.
- It only brings us “off the assembly line.”
- If we want God to actually choose us, it will be based on our own efforts and choices for the rest of our lives:
- *be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life. Rev. 2:10*

Every Figure and Parable in the NT

- The sower, those who produce fruit.
- The talents those who trade and make gain.
- The vine and the branches those who produce no fruit are cast forth as a branch.
- In the body, each member does its share. (Mt. 13:18; Mt. 25:14; Jn. 15:1; Eph. 4:11).
- In the house, when the master goes into another country, every servant is warned to be vigilant, faithful, hardworking and watching for the master's return. (Mk 13:34)
- *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master”* (Lk. 12:35-36).

The Parable of the Dragnet

- *“the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” Mt. 13:47-50*
- Our freewill must join God’s eternal purpose. The gospel call must move us to faithful service or it was useless.

Entering the Church is Entering Dragnet

- Heeding and obeying God's call in the gospel only places us in the net, but nothing more.
- Our freewill choices are critical.
- It is not God's decision but ours that will determine if we will be judged *good / bad*, or *wicked / just*.
- Our "*cleansing of ourselves*" makes the difference. *in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.*" 2Tim. 2:20-21

We Are His Workmanship

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10

By God's grace we are called...

Leaving baptism we are a new creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

God prepared those good works in eternity. They are listed in the Scriptures.

We must do them.

For many are called, but few are chosen. Mt 22:14

All summed up in One Verse

- *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world; 13 looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works. Titus2:11-13*

- *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1Pet 4:9-11*
- *Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:10-11*

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- *“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 1Chron. 28:9”*