Follow the Biblical Pattern of New Testament Christianity
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In colonial America, many preachers of several denominations launched a movement to point Christians back to the pattern followed by the New Testament Church. Their work generated the restoration movement among the churches of America. Since those days, for decades, local church leaders in Groesbeck have encouraged that same restoration of the design and nature of New Testament Christianity. How do we best honor their work and memory?

We need to do more than just put flowers on their grave or put a coin on their headstone. One tradition that honors great men who have passed, involves placing a coin on the gravestones of America’s fallen soldiers. Leaving a coin on the headstone lets loved ones of the deceased soldier’s family know that someone has come to visit the grave.

Each denomination of coin holds a different meaning. Leaving a penny means you visited and want to thank the deceased vet for their service. A nickel means you trained at boot camp with them. A dime suggests you served with the vet. Finally, a quarter signifies you were with the soldier when they died. This is a practical way to honor American vets who gave their lives for us.

The best way for us to honor preachers of the restoration movement, and church leaders who guided us, should involve more than placing a coin on their headstone. Each generation of the Church must commit to restore the pattern followed by the New Testament Church, in the design and nature of Christianity. An imperative assignment is faced within each generation. It is made imperative because of two facts. First, the pattern and design presented by the New Testament has never changed. 2nd Tim. 1:13 still says Christians must "Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”

The second fact that drives the imperative is this. What leaders of past generations accomplished in their time, may very well have changed today in our generation. Paul admonishes: "You were saved through sanctification, by the Spirit and belief in the truth...and He called you through our gospel...So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter." (2nd Thess. 2:13-15).

We must call all believers to recertify that we are following that New Testament pattern. We must again in each generation, “Examine ourselves to see whether or not we are still in the faith.” (2nd Cor. 13:5). That is the best way to honor faithful preachers and leaders of the past who pointed us back to the pattern of true New Testament Christianity.