

# Tradition

- Every nation has its own traditions.
- Every denomination has its own traditions.
- ***Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and **not according to Christ.***** Col 2:8-9
- True Christians observe on the traditions handed down from the Scriptures.
- *Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.* 2Th. 2:15
- We all observe traditions ... but which ones?

# The Traditions of Men

- **Religious Traditions**

- *Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the **tradition of the elders**, & For **laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men** —" **All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.** Mark 7:5-10*

- Man has not changed. The Pharisees have left the earth
- New men have taken their place.
- There are many religious traditions – some very upright and good, but they do not go back to the Scriptures and thus are exactly the same type of traditions as they held.

# The Traditions of Men

- **Human Traditions** (Moral – Ethical – Practical)
- *you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your **aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers** 1Pet. 1:18*
- There is no limit to these types of traditions
- For those raised in the world with no true knowledge of Scripture, things get mingled and mixed like the iron and clay of Daniel's statue.
- There is so much to unlearn when we become a Christian. Half truths, false proverbs, human wisdom.

# The Traditions of Men

- **Human Traditions** (Moral – Ethical – Practical)
- *Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Col 2:8-9*
- Whether it is a creed book of different churches
- A federal law passed by the government
- Christians will be cheated if they let go of Scripture for it.
- It is based only on philosophy and empty deceit.
- Traditions of men are of necessity “*basic principles of the world*. Anything handed down without Scripture.
- They are “*not according to Christ*” unless they are in His word.”

# The Problem with Human Tradition

- Human traditions that do not trace back directly to the commands of Jesus accomplish:
- *transgress the command of God because of tradition*
- *make the command of God of no effect by your tradition*
- *Whoever goes onward and abides not in the teaching of Christ, does not have God: he that abides in the teaching, the has both the Father and the Son. 2John 9*
- Any time “*their fear toward Me is a commandment taught by men,*” heart is moving away from God.
- *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:31-32*
- If it is not in the Words of Jesus, it is a human tradition.

# The Traditions of God

- *Therefore, brethren, **stand fast and hold the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*  
2Th. 2:15
- All the new codes of conduct and submission to God revealed by Jesus along His apostles and prophets were also designed to become traditions – We must **seize** and **stand fast** in them
- *withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and **not according to the tradition which he received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us**, for we were not disorderly among you; 2Th. 3:6-7*
- Those who refuse to follow the traditions received from the inspired writers of the NT are walking disorderly.

# What are these Traditions?

- *Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. 1Cor. 11:2-3*
- Every command must become a new manner of life (tradition) we hand down to children and grandchildren.
- Commands of Worship
- Commands of Organization
- Commands of How to Become a Christian
- Commands of Morals and Ethics
- Examples of those in the NT following the new traditions.
- *Therefore **I urge you, imitate me** For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will **remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.** 1Cor. 4:15-16*

# How they Dealt with 1<sup>st</sup> Human Tradition

- *5 some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." Acts 15:5*
- *6 the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. 7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: Acts 15:6-7*
- *12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles Acts 15:12*
- *James answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: 14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: Acts 15:13-15*



# The Broad Nature of Tradition

- A New Tradition sought to be introduced.
- Peter: It is false because My example proves Gentiles can be saved through baptism and the gospel alone.
- Paul & Barnabas: It is false because of the Necessary Inference that God allowed us to perform miracles while preaching that Gentiles can be saved through baptism and obedience to the gospel.
- James: it is false because the Scriptures proclaim that Gentiles will remain Gentiles after they obey the gospel.

# Traditions were taught / Received

- *Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men ... They wrote this, letter by them: **The apostles, the elders, and the brethren**, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 Since **we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"** — to whom we gave no such commandment — 25 **it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord**, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ... 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For **it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us**, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: Acts 15:22*

# Two New Traditions

- The Gentiles will obey the gospel and be Christians without obeying or submitting to anything from the law of Moses.
- All traditions must be tested:
- By the commands given in the Scriptures,
- By the examples of the apostles and prophets who were observing those commands.
- By any and all conclusions that must be drawn based on the commands and examples of the apostles & prophets.

# Paul's Examples are also Traditions

- Anything outside of these norms are not traditions of God, but traditions of men.
- Any tradition that does not come from the Scriptures is a human tradition that must not enter the church.
- When the teachings of the Scriptures are undermined in order to bring in new traditions, genuine Christians are going to be alarmed and concerned.
- If we change these traditions, we are no longer Christians.
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# The Basis of all True Traditions

- *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matt 7:21-23*
- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24*

# The Basis of all True Traditions

- *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matt 28:18-20*

# The Basis of all True Traditions

- *Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other. 7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? 1 Cor 4:6-7*

# The Importance of Tradition

- We will have a huge gap in our ability to understand all that God has given to us if we do not see this point.
- This is what Paul commended about Timothy.
- *But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 2Tim. 3:10-15*