

# God Teaches Jeremiah an Important Lesson

- *The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, 2 "Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink."*
- *5 Then I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine." Jer. 35:1-4*
- God had been watching the Rechabites.
- They had kept the traditions handed down from their fathers. This is what God had expected of Israel.
- It had become their way of life, just as God had wanted Israel to take His commands.

# How Commands Become Traditions

- *But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever. 7 You shall **not build a house, sow seed, plant a vineyard, nor have any of these**; but **all your days you shall dwell in tents**, that you may live many days in the land where you are sojourners.' 8 **Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,** 9 nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in; nor do we have vineyard, field, or seed.. Jer. 35:5-9*
- For over 2 centuries, this family kept the commands of their father. They had become the traditions of this family and they had kept them for over 10 generations.

# God Made This Like a Parable

- *10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us 11 But it came to pass, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, 'Come, let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and for fear of the army of the Syrians.' So we dwell at Jerusalem." 12 Then came the word of the Lord to Jeremiah, saying, 13 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: '**Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?"**' says the Lord. Jer. 35:10-13*
- The actions of these Rechabites was exactly what God had wanted Israel to do. He wanted an entire nation handing down these commands as their traditions.

# The Terrible Contrast

- *"The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment.*
- *But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me. 15 I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.*
- The attitude of the Rechabites was exactly what God wanted.
- He wanted His people to be as zealous as them.



# Rechabites Condemned Judah

- *Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me. “”*
- *17 "Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the doom that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them but they have not heard, and I have called to them but they have not answered.'”*
- The Rechabites had received one command from their father and for over 200 years never forgot
- God had sent prophets again and again to remind His people. Of their obligations but never passed them down from father to son to become their traditions.

# God Blesses the Rechabites

- *18 And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you, 19 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever.'" Jer. 35:17-19*
- While Judah is about to face the wrath of God, the Rechabites are promised God will always be with them and they will always stand before Him.

# The Stark Difference

- The main difference between the church of Christ and all other churches in the world today centers here.
- We seek to follow traditions that trace all the way back to the commands of God.
- They follow traditions traced back to their founder.
- It is an amazing paradox.
- Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, Episcopalians, Methodists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists – All have a founder whose written traditions have entered into their churches for centuries.
- They cling to those traditions as the Rechabites did to theirs.
- The church of Christ bypasses these things to Jesus.

# Can this Claim be Verified?

- Baptism:
- 1. Infants born in sin need to be baptized
- *The soul that sins will die. Ezek 18:1-24*
- *I was alive apart from the law Rom 7*
- 2. Saved by faith only
- *He that believes and is baptized Mk 16:15-16*
- 3. Baptism is sprinkling or pouring water.
- *Buried with him through baptism Rom 6:3-8*
- They cling to the traditions handed down from their founders.
- We seek to cling to our founder – Jesus Christ



# 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
- 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 the Rechabites illustrated in the OT is now what is expected and demanded in the NT.
- All commands become our traditions handed down from father to son and mother to daughter.

# 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*

# Timothy Learned Paul's Traditions

- *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 ...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*
- ... And Passed them on to others:
- *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2:2-3*

# This is exactly What we Must do!

- *16 Therefore **I urge you, imitate me.** 17 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. 4:15-17*
- *Brethren, **join in following my example,** and note those who so walk, as **you have us for a pattern.** Phil. 3:17*
- *The things which **you learned and received and heard and saw in me,** these do, and the God of peace will be **with you.** Phil. 4:9*
- We can be just like the Rechabites and use Paul as the pattern to imitate.



# A Clash of Traditions

- *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the Lord your God. 3 **According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.** 4 You shall **observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them:** I am the Lord your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord. Lev 18:1-5*
- We cannot be influenced by the traditions of this world
- Our traditions and manner of life must be based on God's command alone. Regardless of how out of step.



# A New Clash of Traditions

- *Do not be deceived; neither **fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals**, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6:9-11*
- *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ... 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even **their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature**. 27 Likewise also **the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful**, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Rom 1:24-27*
- The doings of America vs the doings of God's Commands
- Marriage between one man and one woman for life

# Traditions handed down for Millinea

- *You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. 23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. Lev. 18:22-23*
- *If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. Lev. 20:13-14*
- *A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God. Deut. 22:5*
- These things are not hard to be understood.
- They did not begin with Paul.
- These are the traditions and culture God wants for a nation

# The Stark Choice We all Must Make

- Doings in America and becoming like Egypt and Canaan
- *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.'" 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2Cor. 6:17-7:1*
- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1Jn 2:15-17*