

Traditions of Men Die Hard

I. Introduction: **Colossians 2:4-8; 20-23**

A. We are not going to deny that there are traditions [ordinances; 3832 Strong's number; same as "traditions" elsewhere "that which is delivered"] we can follow (**I Corinthians 11:2**).

1. We must simply understand the difference between the traditions [ordinances] of men and those of God (**II Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6**).
2. Man is not the standard (**II Corinthians 10:12**).

B. Honesty in our service to God demands that we do not cling to that which is not of God (**Luke 16:13-15**).

1. Are we willing to forsake our way of thinking (**Proverbs 16:2-3**; cf. **II Kings 5:10-14**).
2. Are we honest enough to question ourselves (**Haggai 1:3-9**; cf. **II Corinthians 13:5**)?

II. Body: Who's will are we doing (**Leviticus 22:31** and **Ephesians 5:17**)?

A. If we follow traditions of men, we're not following the Lord (**Mark 7:1-13**).

1. Even if our "forefathers" or "great preachers" or "known men" said or did it (**Isaiah 9:12-17**, **Jeremiah 17:5**, **Hosea 10:13**, **Amos 2:4-5**, **Mark 12:18-27**, **I Corinthians 4:6**, and **II Peter 2:1-2**).
2. We should never listen to that which leads us away (**Proverbs 19:27** and **II Timothy 2:14-18**).

B. Traditions of men are about us, not God (**Isaiah 55:6-9**, **Isaiah 65:2**, and **Jeremiah 18:11-12**).

1. All we do should glorify God (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**, **I Corinthians 10:31**, and **II Timothy 4:18**).
2. However, some care more about what mankind thinks (**John 9:1-22**; **12:42-43**, **Acts 12:1-3**, **Acts 18:11-13**, and **Galatians 1:10**).

C. Since the word of God is living and applies to us (**Hebrews 4:12**), let's make applications to what we'd see if our "brethren" authored the Bible:

1. Authorized Gospel meetings based in human traditions:
 - a. Popular preachers, not the message (**I Thessalonians 2:4-6**).
 - b. Generic lessons that offend none (**Matthew 15:12-14**, **II Timothy 4:2**, and **Titus 2:1**).
 - c. Pulpit puppet preachers controlled (**Acts 4:18-20**; cf. **Titus 2:15**).
2. We'd test all teachers, except the ones in the track rack and bulletin articles (**Romans 16:17-18** and **II John 9-11**).
3. Sunday AM, PM, Wednesday for every congregation; five acts of worship; five steps of salvation; etc. (**I Peter 4:11**).
4. Make-up Lord's Supper, delivery of Lord's Supper to nursing homes, and sack-supper (taking it in hotels on vacation, etc.) (**Acts 20:7**; **I Corinthians 11:18; 20; 33**).

5. Work, travel, etc. is more important than worship / study (**Matthew 6:33** and **Luke 14:33**).
6. Men's "business" meetings to decide doctrinal matters by a vote or unqualified elders (**Psalms 119:89**).
7. Schools, Publications, and organizations will be the standards (**I Timothy 3:15**; cf. **II Timothy 2:2** and **Titus 1:3**).
8. Subjective [based on respect of persons, etc.] disciplinary actions (**II Thessalonians 3:6**).
9. "Children's" bible classes with skits, coloring, crafts, stories of the Bible made to be fairytales, etc. (**Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:6-7, Ezra 10:1-12, and Ephesians 6:4**).
10. Honoring some based on preaching ability, contribution, status, etc. (**Romans 12:16, I Corinthians 9:16, Philippians 2:2-4, and James 2:1-9**).

III. Conclusion:

- A. Confusion exists in churches, but not by the Lord (**I Corinthians 14:33**).
- B. Many brethren today are figuratively sacrificing their children to devils, adhering to the doctrines around them, etc. as Israel did (**Psalms 106:34-40**).
- C. Let's be on the Lord's side and kill [figuratively] that which may die hard (**Exodus 32:17-28**).