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).
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).
   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).

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).