

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

February 15, 2016

Traditions & those Necessary Changes

MATTHEW 15:1-9 NKJV – (1) Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, (2) “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” (3) He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? (4) For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’ (5) But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is a gift to God*”— (6) then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. (7) Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: (8) ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with *their* lips, But their heart is far from Me. (9) And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.

One of the things that the Bible-believing Christian is warned about in the scriptures is what’s called **TRADITION**. **Colossians 2:8** says “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ”. So, man-made traditions can deceive and spoil the believer. Traditions are simply teachings that have been handed down. Not all traditions are bad, but for many, they may make void the word of God; without discernment, they lead to vain worship and hypocritical worship.

In **Mark chapter 7**, Jesus rebukes the scribes and Pharisees for their observance of a certain man-made “tradition of the elders” (**vs. 5**) concerning hand-washing. This tradition had become a religious ordinance, found nowhere in the scriptures. Their religious “traditions” became so invasive they began to “reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition” (**vs. 9**). They were rejecting what the Bible said, to keep their own tradition. In **verse 13**, they were “making the word of God of none effect through their tradition”. Be mindful and scrutinize religious traditions that they do not contradict the word of God.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 TIMOTHY 4:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The 10 Commandments are not multiple choice!