



TRADITION!
TRADITION!

Tradition and Religion

“Tradition is the living faith of the dead, *traditionalism* is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, traditionalism is what gives tradition a bad name.”

— Jaroslav Pelikan

THESIS:

- **Definition: (Divine vs. Human)**
- **Survey of Jewish Traditions**
- **Jesus and Traditionalism**
- **Modern Day Applications**

Welcome from the Kirkland church family!

“Born to belong to each other”



September 8, 2013

PROFILES OF REAL CHRISTIANS

**THE WITNESS OF EARLY
CHURCH HISTORY**

Tonight: 5:00 P.M.

Independent Bible Study

Through ***Bible Structural Analysis***

- Learn how to work with **the Bible text itself**, without the use of commentaries!
- Develop your *own faith* by learning a framework to approach every Bible book!
- Saturdays at the **Kirkland church building**, from 10:00 am to noon.
- **May 3 – July 26th**. RSVP now to enroll! **OPEN TO ALL!**

TEACHER



**JOHN COFFMAN
PH.D, JD**



LIFE BY THE BOOK

II Tim 3: 1-17

MAY 4, 2014

SUNDAY AM LESSON

why God made Moms

WHY THE WORLD NEEDS MOTHERS

May 11, 2014
Sunday AM lesson

TRADITION = “Handed down”

- **DIVINE TRADITIONS**

- **I Cor 11:2, 23 “Hold fast to the traditions delivered unto you.. received from the Lord!”**
- **II Thess 2:15 “Hold fast to the traditions which ye were taught whether by word or epistle.”**
- **II Thess 3:6 “Withdraw from those who walk not after the traditions which you received from us!”**

TRADITION = “Handed down”

- **HUMAN TRADITIONS**

- **“Of the Elders” – Mt 15:2, Mk 7:5**
- **“Of my Fathers” – Gal 1:14**
- **“Of Men.” – Col 2:8**

Violate = Angry!

Jewish Traditions

All oral until 200 AD!

- **Talmud = “Learning” – 700 AD**
 - **Mishna – Comm. On OT (200 AD)**
 - **Gemara – Comm. on the Mishna.**
- **Halakah – “Kosher regulations.”**
 - **Obligatory!**
- **Haggadah –Illust and Anecdotes**
- **TORAH – “Constitutional Law”**
 - **Law, Psalms, Prophets.**

Problem Pharisees

Scrupulous Sabbath Rules

- **Extreme: (Technicality)**
 - **Forbade spitting on ground – plowing!**
 - **Can't eat an egg laid on the Sabbath**
- **BUILT A HEDGE AROUND THE LAW**
 - **A sin to pluck hair on the Sabbath**
 - **Hedge: A woman could not look into a mirror lest she be tempted to pluck!**

Problem Pharisees

Scrupulous Sabbath Rules

- **Devised legal loopholes**
 - **Can't carry clothes out of a burning house...**
 - **Can put on several layers!**
 - **Can't travel more than 3/5th of mile from home..**
 - **Can establish "homes away from home."**

Jesus & Human Tradition

Mk 7:1-13

- **From men and not God (vs 3)**
- **Makes Worship vain (vs 7)**
- **Rival to the word of God (vs 8)**
- **Reject God's law (vs 9)**
- **Makes God's law void (vs 13)**

Human Opinions and the Mishna

- **“The oral law must be observed with greater stringency than the written law because Statutory Law (oral tradition) affects the life of the ordinary man more than the more remote Constitutional law.” (Torah)**

Two Extremes:

- **LIBERALISM**

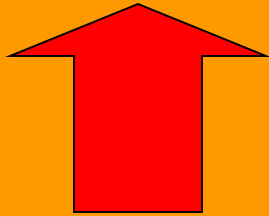
- **Going *beyond***
- **“Loosing where God has not loosed.”**

- **TRADITION-ALISM**

- **Exalting Human opinion**
- **“Binding where God has not bound.”**

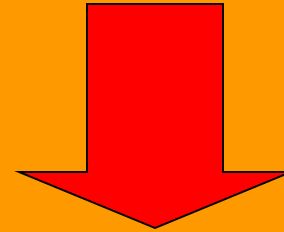
Two Extremes:

- **LIBERALISM**



**God allowed
expediencies &
Commands...
Goes beyond w/o
authority!**

- **TRADITIONALISM**



- **Binds expediencies
& human traditions
as commands of
God w/o authority!**

Why so Relevant?

- **7 Pallbearers of the church**
- **WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY BEFORE!**



Modern Day Applications

- **Beware: Just because no written creed, may still have an “oral creed.”**
- **Must be careful not to create our own “hedges” –accuse others of being “liberal.”**

Modern Day Applications

- **“It is easy to accept an *inherited position uncritically* and to espouse it *dogmatically*.”
*George Eldon Ladd***
- **A smug attitude will prevent learning and has no place in a disciple!**

Modern Day Applications

- **Standard must be the scriptures not “the way we were raised!”**
 - **Elder support**
 - **Name of the church I Cor 1:2**
 - **Lifting up holy hands I Tim 2:8**
 - **Wedding/Funerals in the building**

Modern Day Applications

- **Must avoid extremes, Be Careful!**
 - **Do not condemn others who may be different, not unscriptural.**
 - **Don't react against C of C traditions – throw out Divine traditions!**
 - **Be careful before you reject an expediency – make sure it is no longer expedient! (Invitation song)**

KEY:

- Learn how to distinguish between Digressive (error) and Progressive (allows for local autonomy and scriptural expediencies.)
- Will Rogers: *“Be not the first to try something new, nor the last to jettison something old and worn out.”*