

The Traditions of Men, Christmas

TEXT: Matt. 15:3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE POWER OF TRADITION IN OUR LIVES.
 1. Influence, coupled with tradition.
 2. Holidays, jobs, religious practices.
 3. Peer and societal pressures.
- B. SOME TRADITIONS ARE NOT GOOD(**Matt. 15:3**). HOW CAN YOU TELL?

I. TRADITION AS THE BIBLE LOOKS AT IT.

- A. **Matt. 15:1-6**. TEACHES TWO LESSONS.
 1. Priority is to be given to God's law.
 2. Where tradition violates God's law it is wrong.
- B. **Gal. 1:12-14**. TRADITION OFTEN SEEMS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
 1. Paul's persecution consistent with traditions of the Fathers.
 2. Paul thought he was doing the right thing.
 3. But ... (**1 Tim. 1:12-15**).
- C. **Col. 2:8**.
 1. There is tradition from Christ and there is man's tradition.
 2. If we follow man's tradition in spite of Christ's law, then we will be made spoil of(**2 John 9; Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19**).
- D. **2 Thess. 2:13-15; 3:6**.
 1. The traditions handed down by the apostles will save us.
 2. To fail to follow this tradition will necessitate discipline.

II. LET'S APPLY THESE TEACHINGS TO CHRISTMAS.

- A. IS CHRISTMAS FROM MAN OR GOD?
 1. Not mentioned in the Bible.
 2. What is the origin? (see **Brumback**, pg. 51).
 3. Christmas is the imposition of men.
- B. DOES THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS VIOLATE GOD'S LAW?
 1. **Gal. 4:8-11; 2 John 9**.
 2. To celebrate Christmas detracts from the only day that we are commanded to observe in the New Testament(**Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10**).
- C. WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AS A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY IS **WRONG**.

III. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SECULAR TRADITIONS CONNECTED WITH CHRISTMAS?

- A. **1 Thess. 5:22**.
- B. **Titus 2:7-8**. WE MUST DO NOTHING THAT CAUSES US TO APPEAR AS THOUGH WE WERE DOING EVIL.
- C. **Matt. 18:5-10**. WE MUST NOT EMBOLDEN THE WEAK TO RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE(**1 Cor. 8:7-13**).
- D. CAN WE SEPARATE THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE FROM RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS WHEN OTHERS DO NOT?

CONCLUSION:

- A. OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS RELIGIOUSLY IS NOT RIGHT.

- B. WE NEED TO THINK SERIOUSLY OF THE OTHER PART OF CHRISTMAS.
- C. TO DO THAT WHICH THE WORLD DOES, AND THEN CLAIM YOU DO SO FOR A DIFFERENT REASON IS DANGEROUS.