

Truth or Tradition Pt 1

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 9th

Eph. 5:17 *“Be not unwise but Understanding what the will of the Lord is.”* (Ro. 11:33-12:2)
Recognizing God’s will (Ro. 12:2; Jer. 29:11) and responding to (pursuing) it requires a:
Repentance/ Recognition (Isaiah 55; Mt. 4); Reprioritization/Realignment (Mt 16; Lk 14);
and a Renovation/Remodeling of our minds. (Mt 5-7; Ro. 12:2)

1. God has revealed his “perfect will” in:

A. His Great Commandment Mt 22:37-40 *“Which is the Great Commandment in the law?”*

- 1) *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.”* (Entole: authoritative prescription, charge)
- 2) *“And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”*

B. His Great Commission Mt 28:18-20 *“All power is given unto me in ... Go ye therefore and:*

1) **Proclaim Salvation:** *“Teach all nations”*
Since *“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Pt 3:9); He commands us to share the gospel. (Good News) (Mt 10:8; Mk 16:15; Lk 24:44-47 Jn 3:16; Ro. 10:9-14)

2) **Identification / Association:** vs 19 *“Baptizing them in the name of the Father... Son... Holy Spirit”*
(baptizo: means to whelm, make fully wet) It comes from bapto meaning to dip, dye or stain!

- a) With Jesus Christ (Ro. 6:3,4; 2 Cor 5:17; Gal. 2:20)
- b) With Jesus’ church Eph. 4; Ro. 12; 1 Cor 12; Acts 2:41-42

3) **Education / Dedication:** Mt 28:9c *“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.”* Entellōmai: charged, enjoined. From telos: the end goal! (aka: the mission)

- a) Biblically this is known as: “Discipleship”. 2 Tim. 3:16,17 and/or Training: Eph. 4:12→

2. Satan Resists God’s Will (Jn 10:10) Through:

A. Persecution (Conflict) Acts 8:1; 1 Pt 5:8,9

- 1) Sadly, we often partner with him. Gal 5:14-16

B. Passivity (Carelessness) Pr. 24:10-12 *“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;*

(“Lost” in Lk 19:10 {apollymi} means perishing!)

“If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall not he render to every man according to his works?” See Ezekiel 3:18; 33:8

C. Doctrinal Poison! (Contamination) Gal. 5:7-9 *“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion comes not of him that called you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”*

- 1) This is one of Satan’s most effective tools! Col. 2:6-12 *“As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him: (Gal 2:10; 2 Cor 5:7) 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you...”*

(sylogōgē: seduce, capture, strip and lead away)

- 2) Satan seeks to spoil us “through:

- a) “Philosophy” (love of wisdom) Jms 3:13-18
- b) “vain (kenos: empty) deceit” (apate: delusion) Satan’s a master at this. Jn 8:44; 2 Cor 11:2-3
- c) “Traditions of men” (parad'osis: transmission.)

It comes from paradid'omee which means to surrender, yield up, entrust, and so “transmit.”

3) What's the trouble with Traditions?

a) Some are Biblical: 2 Thes. 2:15 (Passover, Yom Kippor, Communion)

b) Some can be helpful: (Sunday School, Holiday Traditions)

c) Some can be harmful! If Satan is successful in contaminating God's truth with man made traditions, then they're transmitted generationally until traditions replace God's Truths!

The Jewish Bible consists of the Torah and the Tanakh. By Jesus' time, the Jews added the 6200 pages of the Talmud containing the Mishnah (Rabbinical Traditions) and the Gemara (Misnah Interpretations) Eventually, in practice, the Talmud was elevated above the Torah! No wonder Jesus said in Mt 15:6-9

“Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

This people draw nigh unto me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”

Conclusion:

An important part of the “Renewing (renovating) our minds” (Ro 12:2) involves recognizing if we've been building our spiritual lives using contaminated traditions.

Col. 2:8 *“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. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete (Plēroō: fulfilled) in him, which is the head of all principality and power: . . . 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”*

Application:

Modern baptism is an Example of the trickery of traditions.

Notice Sacred Scripture: Mt 3:16,17 *“Then Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, the heavens were opened unto him, . . . the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and a voice from heaven saying ‘This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased’”*

Every one of the 89 references to Baptism use the word “baptizo” meaning: “To immerse, make fully Wet.” The Greek words for “Sprinkle” (rhantizo) or “Poured” (ekche'ō) is never used in scripture of baptism.

So why are billions of baptisms done by sprinkling or pouring?

Sacred Tradition!

Has any part of your spiritual life been spoiled by “sacred” tradition,
Instead of being sealed by Spiritual Truth?

Are you willing to allow God's truth to confront our own sacred traditions about His Great Commandment

(to Love God and others),

and Our Great Commission?

(Salvation - Baptism – Discipleship)