

HOLD THE TRADITIONS

Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Introduction:

1. Generally, we understand the importance of traditions.
 - a. In our families – *memories*
 - b. In school – *milestones*
 - c. In sports – *motivation*
2. The word “tradition” refers to the handing down of information, practices, or behavior from one person to another.
3. The Greek word comes from a root that means “to give up” and was used for the surrender of a city to a conquering force.
4. It came to represent the idea of “giving up” a belief or practice from one generation to the next.
5. Thus, it can mean “transmission” or, concretely, “precept.”
6. Naturally, there are religious traditions – some good, some bad – some we are to hold, and some we are to reject.

I. Human Traditions

- A. In most religious groups, there are things that are done because of traditions of men.
- B. Some human traditions are good and harmless.
 1. They help expedite Bible commands.
 - a. We are commanded to sing “decently and in order” (Ephesians 5:19; 1 Corinthians 14:40).
 - b. A song leader and a pitch pipe help to expedite this command, but they are not essential.
 2. They are matters of judgment (of the local eldership).
 - a. Having a singing on the third Sunday of July
 - b. Order of worship service
 - c. Marion County Singing
 3. Thus, they are good traditions based upon Bible truth.
 4. It is sad to witness those traditions pass away.
- C. Other human traditions are wicked and sinful.
 1. The traditions of binding opinions (Mark 7:1-13)
 2. The traditions of changing God’s Word (Galatians 1:13-14)
 3. The traditions of rejecting Christ (Colossians 2:8)
- D. These traditions cannot save (1 Peter 1:18-19).

II. Heaven's Traditions

- A. These are the traditions that Paul says we are to hold (seize and retain).
- B. These traditions came by inspiration (1 Corinthians 11:2).
- C. These traditions are written in the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15).
- D. These traditions are not negotiable (2 Thessalonians 3:6).
 - 1. Vocal music in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
 - 2. Women's role in the church (1 Timothy 2:12-15)
 - 3. Marriage is one man and one woman (Gen. 2:21-24)
 - 4. Fornication is only exception for divorce (Matt. 19:8-9)
 - 5. Parents must teach their children (Eph. 6:4)
 - 6. Faithfulness must be unto death (Revelation 2:10)
 - 7. God's plan for giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- E. These traditions will save (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).
- F. These traditions will comfort and strengthen (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Conclusion: *Hold the Traditions!*

- 1. Things change, but God's Word does not.
- 2. Are you holding to Heaven's traditions?