

## **TRADITIONS OF MEN VERSUS THE WORD OF GOD (Mark 7:1-13)**

**August 18, 2024**

**TEXT—Mark 7:1-13**

**Jn. 10:9-10**

**MAIN IDEA**—Man made traditions can never save others from their sins. Only by grace through faith in Christ alone is salvation accomplished. This Gospel is only found in the word of God.

**MEMORY VERSES—Eph. 2:8-9**

**THE CRITICISM OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS (Mark 7:1-5)**—The religious leaders unjustly criticized Jesus' disciples for failing to follow their accepted tradition of handwashing. By criticizing the LORD's disciples, these leaders were indirectly attacking the LORD Jesus and attempting to impose their dead, lifeless traditions on them as an indictment against Christ and His Kingdom.

**Mk. 1:27**

**Mk. 2:24, 27-28; Mk. 3:1-2**

**V1-2**—The hygiene of the disciples wasn't their concern. Washing their hands didn't really matter to them. The Pharisees were more concerned that the disciples didn't wash their hands according to their ceremonial traditions and as a result they considered them 'unclean' or ceremonially defiled.

**2 Cor. 3:5-6**

**V3-5**—These religious leaders judged Christ and His disciples by their man-made traditions which had no power to save them or anyone else they taught but in fact would condemn them to hell for promoting a false Gospel of works righteousness.

**THE CONDEMNATION OF CHRIST (Mark 7:6-13)**—While the religious leaders criticized Jesus' disciples, Jesus didn't accept it. He answers their accusation of sinful behavior by condemning their entire false system of worship. His rebuke reveals the emptiness of lifeless rituals that lacks faith in the Gospel and the transforming power of the Spirit working through the word.

>**Hypocritical words (V6)**—The word hypocrite means ‘play actor’ or ‘stage actor.’ The Pharisees and religious leaders were only committed to outward, external appearances of holiness, while their hearts were unrepentant, evil, and hateful.

**Is. 29:13-14**

**Mt. 23:27-28**

>**False worship (V7)**—The Pharisees and scribes pretended to love God, but their religious system of righteousness by works only led to superficial, forced, unbiblical worship that God rejects (i.e. *vain worship*).

**Warren Wiersbe (1929-2019)**—*True worship must come from the heart, and it must be directed by God’s truth, not man’s personal ideas. What a tragedy that religious people would ignorantly practice their religion and become the worse for doing it!*

**Jn. 4:23-24**

**Ps. 51:6; 1 Cor. 10:31**

>**Rejection of the Word of God (V8-13)**—Finally, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders by giving an example of how they blatantly rejected the clear teachings of God’s Law to uphold their man-made traditions.

**What does God see when He looks at our lives in light of His Word?**