THE TRADITIONS OF MEN

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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Topic:
THE TRADITIONS OF MEN
Bible Texts: Colossians 2:4-8 & Mark 7:6-10

Prayer

Father in Jesus Christ's name. Thank You for today, thank You for Your mercies, thank You for Your lovingkindness, thank You for seeing us through this year already, We pray, Lord, that as we start tonight's study, bless us abundantly, see us through and help us digest Your word to our utmost benefit, in Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen

Introduction

I welcome you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today's study is not just an admonition but a warning, and also a teaching that opens the understanding of those who have ears to hear the voice of God's Spirit. This is why I would encourage the rapt attention of all those whom the word of God will be reaching today, we are still in this race, we must not not faint!

Please send these verses in when found

Bible Text

Col.2.4 - And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.
Col.2.5 - For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.
Col.2.6 - My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him.
Col.2.7 - Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

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.

Mark.7.6 - He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.
Mark.7.7 - Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
Mark.7.8 - For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.
Mark.7.9 - And He said to them, You have a fine way of rejecting [thus thwarting and nullifying and doing away with] the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition (your own human regulations)!
Mark.7.10 - For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

Study

Reading through these portions of the scriptures meditatively, we can see that deception is bound to arise in the Church of God if care is not taken. In his letter to the church in Colosse, Paul gives this caution against those who would try to take the Church off guard, saying he is saying this lest anyone should deceive them. Of a truth, there are many deceivers today in the body of Christ who, through their persuasive words, have led many astray. There are errors that have crept into the body since a very long time ago because of the refusal to take to the warnings of the Apostles of Christ. Many have been deceived in the body, and they are ignorant of Satan's schemes. Paul then says, lest we are deceived with persuasive words. The Apostle talks about his absence in the flesh and presence in the spirit, rejoicing to see their good order and steadfastness of their faith

in Christ. **Colossians 2:5 KJV** For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. From Paul's words, we can take note of some things. He spoke of their good order and steadfastness in the faith of Jesus Christ. This means that they were steadfast in their profession in Christ and maintained the good order expected of them by the Lord. This good order is what is missing today in the body of Christ. There is no more orderliness rooted in the faith of Christ. The body is losing her steadfastness, which is one of the major problems of the disorderliness in teachings and doctrines the church is facing today.

Colossians 2:6 KJV As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: As you have received, walk in Him. Don't change or pervert His ways. Focus on how it was given to you by the apostles and prophets of God on whom the foundation of the church was built. There should be no addition to the foundation that has been laid down. Walk in it as it was given without prejudice and be rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith. This means that we must let our roots grow down into Him and let our lives be built on Him.

Colossians 2:7 KJV Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.From this, we can see that it is something intentional. We must take heed to what we have been taught. The Word of God is filled with several truths, and we do not need to seek external truth again. All we need is to abound in it. **Colossians 2:8 KJV** 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.

Here Paul gives a clear warning, saying, beware lest anyone cheats you through philosophy and empty deceit. If one is not careful, they would be cheated through the most basic beliefs, concepts, and attitudes of individuals or groups of persons holding onto some irrelevant dogmas. Through this, it is according to the tradition of men. These traditions are rooted in the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ. Looking carefully into this discussion, we would see that one thing we must guard against is the tradition of men. They are not after Christ but emanated from the world. These traditions are so dangerous that the Lord Jesus Christ rebuked the Pharisees because of them.

Are you following carefully?

Mark 7:6-10 KJV
He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. [7] Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. [8] For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. [9] And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. [10] For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

The Pharisees were found in some errors as stated by the Lord Jesus Christ:
- They honor the Lord with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Him.

- They worship the Lord in vain, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. This happened by laying aside the commandment of God to hold on to the traditions of men.

If you look into these things carefully, you would see connections in the two faults the Lord found in the Pharisees. It is the same today with those who uphold the traditions of men above the commandments of God, worshiping Him in vain, though they think they are doing God a service. They honor Him with their mouths, yet their hearts are far away from Him. If their hearts were truly with Him, they would worship Him in spirit and in truth and would not hold on to the traditions of men. For example, the Pharisees' practice of washing pots and cups attributed a religious significance to these acts as though they were commandments of God. They turned such things into a spiritual affair, which is not rooted in Christ.

And many other things they did. The Lord said that out of these "many other things", the church today also falls into similar errors. The problem is that they have taken these things as doctrines, as if they came from God, but they do not. The Lord then made His concern known: **Mark 7:9 KJV** And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. They rejected the commandment of God so they could keep their own tradition. This means they placed their tradition above the commandment of God. That is exactly what the church is facing today. The Lord is not pleased with this. He continues to warn and rebuke, but many refuse to listen. They keep honoring Him with their mouths while refusing to heed His Word, thereby worshiping Him in vain.

Mark 7:13 KJV Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

The greatest error the tradition of men causes is that it makes the Word of God of no effect. These traditions, just like the Jewish traditions handed down to the Jews, have also been handed down to the church by those many call church fathers. It is crucial that the mind of Christ be made known to those who desire to worship Him in truth and in spirit. **John 4:24 KJV** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. Even as those who love to worship Him in vain continue, thus persists even after the truth has been made known to them, those who have ears must heed the call and warnings of the Holy Spirit.

Let us now examine some of the traditions of men that are not supported by the Scriptures and would seem very strange to the early Apostles of Christ if they were mentioned to them today. They are as follows:

1. Christmas and Easter Traditions

These traditions of men have gained significant ground in the body of Christ, becoming so popular and central in the Christian calendar. However, they are nowhere found in the Word of God. Many practices associated with these traditions—such as decorating trees, exchanging gifts, and observing Easter eggs—are not scriptural. God condemns such practices as they originated in pre-Christian cultures and were later adopted by Christianity.

Today, many reject the commandment of God to uphold these traditions. What does the Word of God say about them?

Deuteronomy 12:1-4 KJV

These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to

possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth. [2] Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: [3] And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place. [4] Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV
Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The idea of Christmas trees and other related practices is rooted in paganism. There is no mention of "Christmas" in the Bible. Even the word "easter" was mentioned once in the Scripture and it means Passover, this does not refer to the current traditions surrounding His death and resurrection. Because many wish to uphold their traditions, they have rejected the commandments of God. The Lord's command is clear: we are to come out of anything that has a link with paganism.

2. Observing Lent: This is a practice that has gained ground in many Orthodox churches, most especially the Catholic Church,

which is the mother of all harlots as contained in the book of Revelation. It is nowhere found in the Bible but is a mere tradition of men. It is not a bad thing to fast and repent, but the specific tradition of observing Lent (a 40-day period of fasting and repentance before the pagan festival Easter) is not found in the Bible. Its roots are from paganism, and none of Christ's earlier Apostles did so. Since this practice is not found in the Scriptures and has been taught as doctrine, it must be discarded, for it is a commandment of men that turns away from the truth.

Titus 1:14 KJV Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Though these practices look innocent, they are dangerous to the souls of men.

3. Use of Incense and Candles: This was specifically commanded by God for the Tabernacle and Temple, not for the Church of Christ.

Exodus 30:5-10 KJV
And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. [6] And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee. [7] And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. [8] And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. [9] Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon. [10] And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

The commandment of burning incense was a shadow of Christ's duty as the High Priest. Taking it into the Church of God is simply a tradition that is not recognized by God anymore. Such is a strange practice before Him; it is like what Nadab and Abihu did.

Leviticus 10:1-3 KJV
And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. [2] And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. [3] Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

With this practice today, many keep burning strange fires before the Lord. These are traditions of men. This does not mean that candles cannot be used for illumination, but they should not be used as a medium of serving the Lord. This, the Lord frowns at.

4. Infant baptism: This is the baptism of newborn babies. This is nowhere mentioned in the Bible. When talking about the doctrine of baptism, it talks about a conscious decision made by believers, just the same way it takes a conscious decision to give one's life to Christ.

Acts 2:38 KJV
Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

"Repent and be baptized" is the instruction, which means without repentance, one cannot be baptized, and infants have no

understanding about repentance yet. Therefore, they are not qualified for baptism. This is why such practice is not found in the Scriptures.

5. Baptism by sprinkling: When the Lord was baptized by John the Baptist, the Word of God says:

Mark 1:10 KJV
And straightway COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

There is no such practice of baptism by sprinkling in the Bible. All those who did that have not yet been baptized. The danger in it is that it can stop a person from making heaven. Some may find this truth offensive, but it is the truth. Those who had the opportunity to get baptized but did not, and those who got baptized in a wrong way, are in the same category and may not enter heaven's gate. The Ethiopian eunuch saw the immediate need to be baptized and asked what should hinder him from doing so at that point, and Philip told him to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved.

Acts 8:38-39 KJV
And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. [39] And WHEN THEY WERE COME UP OUT OF THE WATER, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

Both went down into the water and came up out of it. Only on a few occasions can a man enter heaven without baptism.
Note: Baptism should be done by males alone; women should not baptize people. There is no such practice in the Bible.

6. Titles of "Reverend": This is nowhere found in the Bible as a title meant for men. It is a tradition of men. Although many would get disappointed and offended because of this raw truth, however, the truth remains truth, and it is better to hear the truth and escape hellfire than to be pampered with half-truth and land in hell. Jesus Christ taught that true greatness comes from humility and service, but the titles such as this emanated from the quest for self-glorification of men. Although it looks very innocent, it is still dangerous. How can a man bear the name of God as a title? The only one that the Bible recognizes as Reverend is God Almighty. Please detach yourself from such practice; God frowns at it.

Psalm 111:9 KJV
He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and REVEREND IS HIS NAME.

7. Use of rosaries and prayer beads: This is not found in the Bible but is a mere tradition of men. The Lord Jesus Christ taught against using repetitive prayers or rituals.

Matthew 6:7-8 KJV
But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. [8] Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

This is a practice common among Muslims and Catholics. It is a tradition of men. None of the apostles used rosaries and beads for prayers. Prayers are said by faith and do not require any physical thing to hold or look upon.

8. Bowing down to the cross: Exodus 20:3-5 KJV Thou shalt have no other gods before me. [4] Thou shalt not make unto thee

any graven image, or any LIKENESS OF ANY THING that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: [5] Thou SHALT NOT BOW DOWN THYSELF TO THEM, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Jesus Christ is not pleased with those who bow down to images. This practice was not found in the New Testament church. It is idolatrous!

9. Use of thumbs and index fingers to make the sign of a cross: It is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that we should use the thumb or index finger as a sign of worship. This is a man-made tradition that has crept into the church, and many are already carried away by this deception, even unconsciously.

10. Observing All Souls' Day: It is nowhere recorded that we should observe a specific day to honor the deceased. In some parts of the world, it is called "remembrance of the dead." This is not scriptural, and it is a practice imbibed by pagans. Christians are encouraged to focus on being with the Lord rather than honoring the dead.

2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV
We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

11. Wearing veils by women: Truly, the Bible teaches that women should cover their heads, but it does not specifically say they should use veils that look like hijabs. However, it is not sinful to wear one if one chooses, but forming a doctrine out of it is wrong. **(1 Corinthians 11:2-16)**

12. Wedding gowns and suits: While this practice has become popular today, it is nowhere recorded in the Bible that a lady should wear a specific gown or that a man should wear a suit on their wedding day. Many have gone into debt because they feel that without it, God will not join them together. It is not wrong to wear a gown and suit, but do not idolize it. You can choose to wear anything on your wedding day. Whatever you wear is your wedding garment. Do not run into unnecessary debt if you are not financially buoyant. All you must take note of is that the clothing should align with the standard of God's Word.

1 Peter 3:3 KJV
Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

13. Veneration of saints: The Bible teaches against making idols or images of any kind. Therefore, creating statues or other images to show respect or awe for a dead person is not supported by the scriptures.

Exodus 20:3-5 KJV
Thou shalt have no other gods before me. [4] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: [5] Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

14. Sacred vestments: The Word of God does not support the wearing of special attires by clergy. In **Matthew 23:5-12**, Jesus Christ condemned the Pharisees for seeking special attires and

titles. Apostle Paul also taught that believers should not focus on outward appearances but rather on inner character.

1 Timothy 2:9 KJV
In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

Looking carefully into all these traditions of men, you can see that none of them has a root in the scriptures. They have been used to deceive men all these years. What does Santa Claus have to do with Christ? That is a modern way of introducing masquerading practices into Christianity. But those dull of hearing and understanding see nothing wrong with this. The Lord Jesus Christ is telling everyone now to come out of such practices before it is too late. Any practice that has no root in the scripture is not of God and should be discarded. We should not seek to worship God in ways we feel are right, but in the way He has stated, if we do not want to regret our eternity. All these things are mere Babylonian practices which the Word of God warns us against.

Revelation 18:2-5 KJV
And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. [4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Those who are wise would go to God and ask if these things are true or not, and they will run for their lives. But the foolish will choose to perish with Babylon.

This is the end of this teaching, have a lovely night's rest.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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