

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is traditionalism, ceremonialism and formalism?
2. What is meant by the “tradition of men” or the “commandments of men”?
3. How did Jesus rebuke the Pharisee’s traditionalism?
4. Can traditions of men exist today? How can traditionalism become doctrine in the eyes of believers today?
5. How can the word of God become of “none effect” through the traditions of men today?
6. How can we keep the “commandment of God” (the Word) and reject the “commandments of men”?
7. What is your heart-relationship with God?

SUMMARY:

The Israelites place much emphasis on keeping the law and as our lesson text teaches, particularly the laws they had added. Even the laws of God had been altered to suit their desires so there was no real “heart” obedience to the Word.

If the heart has not been changed, the outer obedience is of no value. It is necessary that the heart be cleansed and that we have instead of a stony heart that new “heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 11:19) that God has promised to give to the obedient.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

December 16, 2007

Fourth Quarter

JESUS AND THE WORD

LESSON TEXT: *Mark 7:1-23*

LESSON SETTING: The Pharisees and scribes confront Jesus.

TIME: After the five thousand were fed.

I. RITUAL WITHOUT REALITY. Mark 7:1-7

- A. Ceremony (vs. 3-4) Galatians 4:9; Colossians 2:20; Hebrews 9:10
- B. Separation from God (vs. 6) Matthew 15:8; Ephesians 2:12
- C. “Heart Worship” Necessary. Luke 24:32; Acts 4:13; Revelation 3:20

II. TRADITION WITHOUT TRUTH. Mark 7:8-13

- A. Human Precepts (vs. 8) Colossians 2:8; Titus 1:14
- B. God’s Commandments Rejected (vs. 9-13) 2 Chronicles 36:16
- C. Obedience Necessary (vs. 10, 13) Matthew 7:24; 12:50; John 14:23

III. CONFORMITY WITHOUT CLEANSING. Mark 7:14-23

- A. Man’s Defilement
- B. Not from Things Entering into Man (vs. 15, 19)
- C. Defilement from Within (vs. 20-23) Proverbs 29:1; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 2:5; Hebrews 3:13
- D. Cleansing Necessary. Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24

GOLDEN TEXT: *HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS SHALL NOT PASS AWAY.* Matthew 24:35

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 2:1-23

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 9:1-7; Micah 5:1-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ - King and Savior

TOPIC: THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

INTRODUCTION:

It is interesting to note that these wise men from the far east had recognized in the star a sign of the fulfillment of prophecy in the parchments of Holy Scripture. Those who should have recognized it as those for whom it was intended, completely missed the blessed event, being steeped in their self righteousness. We, too, stand in danger of living good moral and obedient lives outwardly (which is very necessary) but completely miss the point with a lack of heart obedience as evidenced in meekness and humility.

They rejoiced when they found Jesus and they worshipped Him and presented rich gifts to Him. We too rejoice when we find Jesus as our Savior and we do, or should, present our very lives into His service. This means separation from the things of life that we desire and long for.

God manifested His divine watchfulness over His Son, jealously guarding Him from His enemies. So likewise will God send His angels to watch over us as ministering spirits. (Hebrews 1:14) What a blessed assurance!

CENTRAL TRUTH: God will always direct those who are spiritually wise to a better understanding of His revelation in Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: *WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE HOUSE, THEY SAW THE YOUNG CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER, AND FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM.* Matthew 2:11

What is your object of worship? Ask yourself. Is it God? Is it persons? Is it things?

Centuries ago, somehow and in a mysterious and wonderful way, God revealed himself to some searching and seeking men. We call them "wise" for they well deserved the title by God's standards. Consider first how they, like Abraham of old, left their country to search for Him. Whether the way was difficult or easy we do not know. Obviously nothing was able to loose their unshakable determination to find Him. It is important to note that they accepted God's divine guidance and they did follow the heavenly message. At last they found Him. Can you imagine how jubilant they were? Perhaps like Simeon they were able to say "our eyes have seen thy salvation." They worshipped Him. Even today "wise" men look for Him, find Him, worship Him, and give Him their best.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 17 - 23

- M. The Beginning of Wisdom. Proverbs 1:1-8
- T. Seeking the Lord. Isaiah 55:1-7
- W. *The Visit of the Wise Men. Matthew 2:1-23
- T. Gabriel's Visit to Nazareth. Luke 1:26-38
- F. Preparation for the Light. Luke 3:2-17
- S. The True Light. John 1:1-14
- S. The Visit of Greek Inquirers. John 12:19-30