

RUSSELL SANDERS

10-11-2021

MATTHEW 15:1-20 -

LESSON 4

TRADITIONS OF THE CHURCH PART 1

In Matthew 15:3 Jesus asked the religious leaders, ***“Why do you transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”*** They had created traditions that were in direct contradiction to the written word of God. They held these manmade traditions to be doctrines superior to the inspired word of God.

Verse 9 says, ***“...in vain they do worship me, teaching (as) doctrines the commandments (traditions) of men.”*** This not only occurred in the Jewish teachings; it has occurred historically throughout the Christian era.

Traditions and doctrines of “men” means” of the church” in our times. Men govern the church and they “add to” the word of God in two ways: [1] adding interpretations beyond the direct meaning and [2] creating doctrines (teachings and traditions) that contradict or goes opposite to the written word of God.

Jesus points out in verse 9, ***“in vain they do worship me...”*** means that their worship, however sincere it may be, is in error and therefore not received. The ruling authority is to be blamed. Those church leaders will be held accountable in eternity for their heresy that misleads the otherwise sincere worshippers.

I do firmly believe that those who truly love Jesus and worship him and pray to God in his name will be heard. Their worship is true, and their heart is pure. Those who because of heretical teaching pray to anyone else or in any other name, although deceived into doing so are the ones who are praying in vain.

When tradition is placed in high authority over scripture by any church, that is an apostate church. They are governed by a spirit of antichrist. No, I didn't say that church is THE ANTI-CHRIST. It is under the influence of a spirit of antichrist which has been operation since the church was born.

Tomorrow we will expose some of those traditions. Some might surprise you and others will be of no surprise at all. We must adhere to the written word of God and to a true knowledge of what is written. Knowledge of the word is vital for without knowledge we can easily be deceived.