

"But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us." -- 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Good "Tradition"

From the recent attacks made on long-standing traditions in the churches of Christ, one would think that "traditions" are **bad** or **unnecessary** things. Let me dissuade you of that foolish notion. Eliminating so-called traditions is frequently the first step in full-scale apostasy! Get rid of the "traditions," and you will get rid of the "traditionalists"! The next step, now that the faithful are gone, is to introduce things which are not biblical traditions either!

The apostle Paul commanded brethren to withdraw from those who walk *"disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us."* Do you still think all traditions are bad?

The English dictionary defines "tradition" as "the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation." Most often those long-standing traditions were passed down from one generation to the next because they worked! Beware those who are bent on tearing down tradition just for the sake of *change*! I warn you again that they are up to more sinister things than that!

Paul's use of the word "tradition" (PARADOSIS) literally means "a handing down or on" and referred to **apostolic teaching**. So there is absolutely nothing wrong with passing down that which is good and beneficial to the next generation, and it is **absolutely essential** when it comes to God's Word! 1 Corinthians 11:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; and 3:6.

There is something inherently dangerous with dispensing with that which has been *tried and tested* and replacing it with that which has **not** been tried before. Besides, how much time does it take before these *new ideas* become *old traditions*? And what exactly is being dispensed with? **Bible preaching and teaching**. The much-despised Sunday night service was an additional hour of gospel preaching which I suggest brethren **need** today more than ever! As a gospel preacher, my divine charge is to *"preach the Word"* **habitually** (2 Tim. 4:1-2)!

The apostle Paul warned Timothy 2,000 years ago that *"... the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables"* (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Let me suggest to you, dear readers, that this is where these "new path" churches are headed. They are not determined to worship God more faithfully, study God's Word more deeply, and live more righteous lives -- they are cutting back on such things in order to have a few more "feel good" moments.

Do you know any brethren who know **too much**? I've never met them in the church. Paul commanded Timothy to preach the truth *in season and out*! Hosea said that his generation was destroyed for a *"lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6). Do you see a pattern here, dear reader?

The "Old Paths"?

"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it'" (Jer. 6:16). Would our modern-day nay-sayers fit into this category? My guess is that they would **vehemently deny it**, but let's just sit back and watch. Let's see where these new ground breakers take their churches. The people of Jeremiah's day were tired of the *"old paths"* and were determined to walk in "new" ones. God was not pleased.

And if any of today's preachers want to debate the subject of Sunday night service as "mere tradition," I'll be glad to sign on the dotted line. Are there any takers? Brethren, this is a very serious matter!