

How Does The New Testament Use The Word “Tradition”?

by Bill Crews

[continued from 350602](#)

condemns them. Parallel to this are the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, all devised by men this side of the first century and falsely attributed to the apostles and to Christ as “the unwritten sayings of Christ and His apostles” Such things as the hierarchy, celibacy, holy water, relics, prayers to the dead, candles for the dead, the rosary, the exaltation of Mary, purgatory, limbo, etc., are nothing more than the traditions of men.

What’s It All About?

by Wayne Goff

If you had never read the Bible, how could someone explain its purpose to you? Sometimes we get caught up in the Old Testament versus the New Testament, the work and worship of the church, and various religious debates, so that we need to step back a minute and take another look at the Bible and its purpose. So dear brethren, how would you describe the Bible in a sentence or two?

The Bible is God’s supernatural revelation to man to solve the problem of man’s violation of God’s will and person.

The Bible covers over six thousand years of human history, and while it describes the creation of man and his habitation in [Genesis 1](#), the **real story** starts in [Genesis 3](#) when Adam and Eve violate God’s law, are cast out of the Garden of Eden, and are no longer in close proximity to God and do not have access to the Tree of Life which would allow them to live forever!

From [Genesis 3:15](#) until the end of the New Testament, the story unfolds of God’s patient, eternal love in trying to rescue man from his predicament and to instill in man’s heart a love for God that will obey Him implicitly.

So why does it take *so long* to get this mission accomplished? The first 1500 years of human life covered by the book of Genesis is often called the stage of [the spiritual infancy](#) of man. There is much that he does not understand about the nature of God or the nature of man. History — the collection of man’s behavior on earth — teaches us lessons if we will study it. Man is a self-willed, often stubborn creature, who likes to do things his own way. This is graphically illustrated in the Old Testament (Exodus — Malachi) where man repeatedly rebels against God — in [Genesis 6](#) due to man’s obsession with sex and women; in [Genesis 10](#) due to man’s obsession with power; in the period of the Old Testament where God *consolidates* His efforts to draw man to himself through the descendants of Abraham. Solomon summed up man’s history in these words: *“Truly, this only I have found: that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes”* ~ [Ecclesiastes 7:29](#).

Now don’t lose your focus by the **details** of man’s disobedience. God was and is always striving to draw man back to Him. God promised man would be *“blessed”* (saved) by Abraham’s descendant — Jesus Christ ([Genesis 12:1-3](#); [Galatians 3:8](#)). Through the salvation provided for man through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, God’s only begotten Son, the *“blessing”* has been accomplished, and the offer to all mankind stands — preach the Good News to every creature in every nation and wash away their sins in the waters of baptism where they contact the blood of Jesus (that which removes sin and guilt), see [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Mark 16:15-16](#); [Acts 20:28](#); [Acts 22:16](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#). As the Bible comes to a close, we see restored to man *“the tree of life”* (Revelation 22:2) which was lost in the beginning. Eternal life with God returns!

350603