

~TRADITION (387)

[Greek, *pa-ra'do-sis*]

.. Disapproved Traditions

.. Christian Traditions

- Information, doctrines, or practices that have been handed down from parents to children or that have become the established way of thinking or acting. The Greek word *pa-ra'do-sis* means, literally, a thing given beside and hence that which is transmitted by word of mouth or in writing.

- Now I commend you because in all things you have me in mind and you are holding fast the traditions just as I handed them on to you. (1 Corinthians 11:2)

- The word as used in the Christian Greek Scriptures is applied to traditions that were proper or acceptable aspects of true worship, as well as to those that were in error or were followed or viewed in a way that made them harmful and objectionable.

- Over the centuries the Jews acquired many traditions. These included ways of dress and handling social matters such as weddings and burials.

- Now on the third day a marriage feast took place in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. (John 2:1)

- Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the marriage feast. (John 2:2)

- So they took the body of Jesus and bound it up with bandages with the spices, just the way the Jews have the custom of preparing for burial. (John 19:40)

- Also, some aspects of Jewish worship in the First Century C.E. were customary or traditional, like using wine in the Passover meal and celebrating the rededication of the temple.

- At length when the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. (Luke 22:14)

- And he said to them; I have greatly desired to eat this Passover

with you before I suffer. (Luke 22:15)

- For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it becomes fulfilled in the kingdom of God. (Luke 22:16)
- And, accepting a cup, he gave thanks and said; Take this and pass it from one to the other among yourselves. (Luke 22:17)
- For I tell you, from now on I will not drink again from the product of the vine until the kingdom of God arrives. (Luke 22:18)
- At that time the festival of dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was wintertime. (John 10:22)
- Jesus and his apostles did not object to such, though they knew that those things were not required by the Law. When the synagogue became a common place of Jewish worship, it was custom or **tradition** to worship there each Sabbath. Luke says that Jesus also attended, **according to his custom**.
- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, **according to his custom** on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (Luke 4:16)

• Disapproved Traditions

- The Jewish religious leaders, though, had added to the written Word many verbal **traditions** that they viewed as indispensable to true worship.
- Paul or Saul, as a Pharisee before his conversion to Christianity, was unusually zealous to follow the **traditions** of Judaism. These would, of course, include the unobjectionable ones as well as the bad ones.
- But by following the **commands of men as doctrines**, he was led to be a persecutor of Christians.
- It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as **doctrines**. (Matthew 15:9)
- For instance, they did not eat unless they washed their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the **tradition** of the men of former times.

- For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, holding fast the **tradition** of the men of former times. (**Mark 7:3**)
- Among those men, this practice was not for hygienic purposes, but it was a ceremonious ritual that supposedly had religious merit. Christ showed that they had no basis for criticizing his disciples for not following that and other unnecessary commands of men.
- Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying; (**Matthew 15:1**)
- Why is it your disciples overstep the **tradition** of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal. (**Matthew 15:2**)
- You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said; (**Matthew 15:7**)
- This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. (**Matthew 15:8**)
- It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. (**Matthew 15:9**)
- With that he called the crowd near and said to them; Listen and get the sense of it. (**Matthew 15:10**)
- Not what enters into his mouth defiles a man, but it is what proceeds out of his mouth that defiles a man. (**Matthew 15:11**)
- And, when back from market, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves by sprinkling, and there are many other **traditions** that they have received to hold fast, baptisms of cups and pitchers and copper vessels. (**Mark 7:4**)
- So these Pharisees and scribes asked him; Why is it your disciples do not conduct themselves according to the **tradition** of the men of former times, but they take their meal with defiled hands? (**Mark 7:5**)
- He said to them; Isaiah aptly prophesied about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honor me with their lips, but their

hearts are far removed from me. (**Mark 7:6**)

- It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach as doctrines commands of men. (**Mark 7:7**)
- Letting go the commandment of God, you hold fast the **tradition** of men. (**Mark 7:8**)
- And Yehowah says; For the reason that this people have come near with their mouth, and they have glorified me merely with their lips, and they have removed their heart itself far away from me, and their fear toward me becomes mens commandment that is being taught. (**Isaiah 29:13**)
- Furthermore, by their **tradition** regarding **corban**, a gift dedicated to God, the religious leaders had made God's Word invalid, overstepping the commandment of God.
- Honor your father and your mother in order, that your days may prove long upon the ground that Yehowah your God is giving you. (**Exodus 20:12**)
- And one who calls down evil upon his father and his mother is to be put to death without fail. (**Exodus 21:17**)
- In reply he said to them; Why is it you also overstep the commandment of God because of your **tradition**? (**Matthew 15:3**)
- For example, God said; Honor your father and your mother, and, Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. (**Matthew 15:4**)
- But you say; Whoever says to his father or mother; Whatever I have by which you might get benefit from me is a gift dedicated to God. (**Matthew 15:5**)
- He must not honor his father at all. And so you have made the word of God invalid because of your **tradition**. (**Matthew 15:6**)
- Further, he went on to say to them; Adroitly you set aside the commandment of God in order to retain your **tradition**. (**Mark 7:9**)
- For example, Moses said; Honor your father and your mother,

and, Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. (**Mark 7:10**)

- But you men say; If a man says to his father or his mother; Whatever I have by which you may get benefit from me is corban, that is, a gift dedicated to God. (**Mark 7:11**)
- You men no longer let him do a single thing for his father or his mother. (**Mark 7:12**)
- And thus you make the word of God invalid by your **tradition** which you handed down. And many things similar to this you do. (**Mark 7:13**)
- So, calling the crowd to him again, he proceeded to say to them; Listen to me, all of you, and get the meaning. (**Mark 7:14**)
- There is nothing from outside a man that passes into him that can defile him, but the things that issue forth out of a man are the things that defile a man. (**Mark 7:15**)

See Also CORBAN

See Also WASHING OF HANDS

- Neither Jesus nor his disciples ever quoted oral Jewish **tradition** to support their teachings but, rather, appealed to the written Word of God.
- But in reply he said; It is written: Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Yehowah's mouth. (**Matthew 4:4**)
- Then the Devil took him along into the holy city, and he stationed him upon the battlement of the temple. (**Matthew 4:5**)
- And said to him; If you are a son of God, hurl yourself down, for it is written: He will give his angels a charge concerning you, and they will carry you on their hands, that you may at no time strike your foot against a stone. (**Matthew 4:6**)
- Jesus said to him; Again it is written: You must not put Yehowah your God to the test. (**Matthew 4:7**)
- Again the Devil took him along to an unusually high mountain,

and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
([Matthew 4:8](#))

- And he said to him; All these things I will give you if you fall down and do an act of worship to me. ([Matthew 4:9](#))
- Then Jesus said to him; Go away, Satan! For it is written: It is Yehowah your God you must worship, and it is to him alone you must render sacred service. ([Matthew 4:10](#))
- For all the things that were written aforetime were written for our instruction, that through our endurance and through the comfort from the Scriptures we might have hope. ([Romans 15:4](#))
- And that from infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. ([2 Timothy 3:15](#))
- All Scripture is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness. ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))
- That the man of God may be fully competent, completely equipped for every good work. ([2 Timothy 3:17](#))
- Once the Christian congregation was established, observance of the unscriptural Jewish **traditions** amounted to a fruitless form of conduct that Jewish persons had **received by tradition** from their forefathers, *Greek, pa-tro-pa-ra-do'tou*, **given along from fathers**.
- For you know that it was not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, that you were delivered from your fruitless form of conduct **received by tradition from your forefathers**. ([1 Peter 1:18](#))
- Upon becoming Christians, those Jews abandoned such **traditions**. When some false teachers in Colossae urged taking up that form of worship, Paul warned against the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men. Evidently he meant, especially, the traditions of Judaism.
- Look out! Perhaps there may be someone who will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the **tradition** of men, according to the elementary

- things of the world and not according to Christ. (**Colossians 2:8**)
- Furthermore, though you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcised state of your flesh, God made you alive together with him. He kindly forgave us all our trespasses (**Colossians 2:13**)
 - And blotted out the handwritten document against us, which consisted of decrees and which was in opposition to us, and He has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the torture stake. (**Colossians 2:14**)
 - Stripping the governments and the authorities bare, he exhibited them in open public as conquered, leading them in a triumphal procession by means of it. (**Colossians 2:15**)
 - Therefore let no man judge you in eating and drinking or in respect of a festival or of an observance of the new moon or of a Sabbath. (**Colossians 2:16**)
 - For those things are a shadow of the things to come, but the reality belongs to the Christ. (**Colossians 2:17**)

•• Christian Traditions

- Viewing **tradition** in the sense of guidelines handed down orally or by example, the information that the apostle Paul received directly from Jesus could properly be passed on to the Christian congregations as acceptable Christian tradition. This was so, for example, regarding the celebration of the Lord's Evening Meal.
- Now I commend you because in all things you have me in mind and you are holding fast the **traditions** just as I handed them on to you. (**1 Corinthians 11:2**)
- For I received from the Lord that which I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which he was going to be handed over took a loaf. (**1 Corinthians 11:23**)
- The teachings and example set by the apostles constituted valid **tradition**. Thus, Paul, who had personally toiled with his hands so as not to be a financial burden on his brothers.
- And on account of being of the same trade he stayed at their

home, and they worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (**Acts of Apostles 18:3**)

- You yourselves know that these hands have attended to the needs of me and of those with me. (**Acts of Apostles 20:34**)
- But I have not made use of a single one of these provisions. Indeed, I have not written these things that it should become so in my case, for it would be finer for me to die than, no man is going to make my reason for boasting void! (**1 Corinthians 9:15**)
- Certainly you bear in mind, brothers, our labor and toil. It was with working night and day, so as not to put an expensive burden upon any one of you, that we preached the Good News of God to you. (**1 Thessalonians 2:9**)
- Could urge the Thessalonian Christians to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly and not according to the **tradition**, *pa-ra'do-sin*, they had received. One who would not work was plainly not following the fine example or tradition of the apostles.
- Now we are giving you orders, brothers, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to withdraw from every brother walking disorderly and not according to the **tradition** you received from us. (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**)
- For you yourselves know the way you ought to imitate us, because we did not behave disorderly among you (**2 Thessalonians 3:7**)
- Nor did we eat food from anyone free. To the contrary, by labor and toil night and day we were working so as not to impose an expensive burden upon any one of you. (**2 Thessalonians 3:8**)
- Not that we do not have authority, but in order, that we might offer ourselves as an example to you to imitate us. (**2 Thessalonians 3:9**)
- In fact, also, when we were with you, we used to give you this order; If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat. (**2 Thessalonians 3:10**)
- For we hear certain ones are walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them. (**2**

Thessalonians 3:11)

- The **traditions** that are necessary for worship of God that is clean and undefiled were in time included as part of the inspired Scriptures.
- Hence, the **traditions** or precepts that were transmitted by Jesus and the apostles and that were vital for life were not left in oral form to be distorted by the passage of time but were accurately recorded in the Bible for the benefit of Christians living at later periods.
- To be sure, Jesus performed many other signs also before the disciples, which are not written down in this scroll. (**John 20:30**)
- But these have been written down that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that, because of believing, you may have life by means of his name. (**John 20:31**)
- I am bearing witness to everyone that hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll. If anyone makes an addition to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this scroll. (**Revelation 22:18**)