

aired on KALS October 22, 2002

## Matthew 15:1-14

1. “Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,
2. ‘Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.’
3. And He answered and said to them, ‘Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?
4. ‘For God said, “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,” and, “HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.”
5. ‘But you say, “Whoever says to *his* father or mother, ‘Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God,*’
6. he is not to honor his father or his mother.” And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.
7. ‘You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:
8. “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.
9. “BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”’

10. After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, 'Hear and understand.

11. '*It is* not what enters into the mouth *that* defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.'

12. Then the disciples came and said to Him, 'Do You not know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?'

13. But He answered and said, 'Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted.

14. 'Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.'"

Following religious tradition versus following the word of God. Truly there is nothing new under the sun.

Jesus quotes a statement in verses 8 and 9 that Isaiah made seven hundred years earlier, which was also true of the religious people of Jesus' day. And so it is right up to today, two thousand years later. People have a tendency to honor God with their lips, while they follow their own man-made ideas, creeds, and traditions.

Like coats of cheap colored paint hiding a beautiful piece of oak furniture, precepts and traditions of men have been applied to the New Testament. Let us therefore endeavor to strip away the layers of accumulate man-made doctrine from the past two thousand years. And apply ourselves to the pure, unabridged word of God--so

we can worship Jesus in spirit and truth.

Let us call Bible things by Bible names, and allow God to define His own terms by His own word-- exhaustively and in context. “Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible remains silent, we remain silent.”