

Sermon Discussion Questions | May 8, 2016
**Mark 7:1-13 and II Thessalonians 2:15-17 | “Looking Unto Jesus,
Not to Tradition”**

1. Share with your group a favorite family tradition that you have practiced, and what benefit it has brought to you and your family. How can traditions be a great blessing to us?
2. When Jesus confronts His adversaries in *Mark 7:1-13*, what are the four criticisms that He makes of them (*vs. 7,8,9,13*)?
3. In *II Thess. 2:15-17*, why does God command us to *stand firm* and *hold to* apostolic traditions? Is Paul contradicting Jesus in this text?
4. In order to evaluate the “rightness” of Christian traditions, three “filters” were presented in this message.

	ORIGIN	MOTIVE	RESULT
<i>Mark 7:1-13</i>	human	selfish	forsaking God
<i>II Thess. 2:15-17</i>	divine	honor God	obeying God

5. In the Protestant Reformation, what was the significance of the term, *sola scriptura*?
 Roman Catholic view: Scripture + church tradition = truth
 Protestant view: Scripture (alone) = truth (producing godly traditions)
 Do you agree with the statement: “Many conservative evangelicals affirm *sola scriptura* but their practice resembles more of a Catholic view of truth.”
6. What are the benefits of godly traditions rooted in Scripture and lived out in the cultural context where God has placed His church?

7. Discuss the liabilities of traditions that may appear godly but do not honor God.
 - a. legalism: my tradition becomes the means by which I evaluate (judge) others
 - b. stifle the Spirit: my tradition resists the movement and leading of God's Spirit
 - c. false comfort: my tradition brings me emotional comfort rather than relying on Christ for that comfort
 - d. false security: my tradition brings me a sense of security rather than relying on Christ for that security
 - e. self-righteousness: practicing my traditions provides me with a sense that I am pleasing to God

8. Why does Pastor Hopper identify the issue of traditions as ultimately a "gospel issue"?

9. How does the filter of the gospel bring indictment to man-made, selfish traditions?

10. How does the filter of the gospel bring to us a hunger to obey apostolic traditions?