

What has tradition done for you?

Every now and then you run into a man that claims to be a Christian (he may be saved or he may not be, I don't know) and he tells the poor dumb Bible believing Christian that he is erring because he is not part of the one true church of Jesus Christ that Jesus founded. Of course there are many competing churches out there that claim to be the one true church that Christ founded. But lets forget about that for now.

Typically this man will say that you (the Bible believer) privately interpret scripture, but he doesn't and his church doesn't. He then will say that you are arrogant and prideful because you know for sure you are going to heaven when you die and he doesn't. He then will tell you that you are deceiving people and are leading people astray – the reason he says this is because you try to win souls to Christ (like God told you to do), you warn people about H-E-L-L (like my Saviour did), and God-forbid you may even preach publicly LIKE ALL THE APOSTLES, JOHN THE BAPTIST, THE PROPHETS, AND JESUS CHRIST, you actually read your Bible and believe it and even understand a lot of it (1 Corinthians 2), you only pray to someone that can actually hear you, you go to church where they don't worship idols and practice cannibalism.

He really doesn't like you, but why? Because what you do and believe contradicts his traditions and church teachings. You see, that is his final authority, not the Bible. My final authority is the Bible because God put it above his very name (Psalm 138:2) and it is the truth according to the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:17, Daniel 10:21). When you run across these people, ask them this question:

WHAT HAS TRADITION DONE FOR YOU?

I think it's a fair question. They always harp on traditions and church teachings; ask them what has it done for them? Has it caused them to draw closer to Jesus Christ? Has it caused them to know the Lord more? Do they have a sweeter fellowship with him than ever before? Has it caused them to love what God loves and hate what God hates? Has it given them assurance of salvation? Has it caused them to exhibit the fruits of the Holy Ghost (Galatians 5:22-23)? Has it given them a burden to win souls to Christ and witness? Has it caused them to leave their pagan past and obey God's word?

Or has it caused them to flat out reject the majority of what the scriptures say? Or has it caused them to believe that they can't understand the Bible on their own with the help of God's Spirit? Or has it caused them to doubt their salvation? Or has it caused them to stop witnessing? Or has it caused them to stop reading the Bible and start reading church fathers? Or has it caused them to criticize the Bible? Or has it caused them to go back into bondage? Or has it caused them to believe baptism is what saves you, but not really because you got to keep doing whatever the church tells you to do?

Or has it caused them to become cannibals (I'm talking about eating the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. You know exactly what I'm talking about. The mass, the eucharist – that

stuff. O and by the way, God forbids the eating of blood in every age – see Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 7:27, Acts 15:29 – so don't tell me God says to eat my blood.)? Or has it caused them to become idolaters? Or has it caused them to worship Mary and burn incense to the queen of heaven (Jeremiahs 7:18, 44:17-25)? Or has it caused them to think bowing down to images of the saints is okay? Or has it caused them to speak evil of the truth? Or has it caused them to get bitter? Or has it caused them to fight, devour, and strive with other Christians without cause?

The question I ask to you is, **What has tradition done for you?**

While you think about that let me tell you what JESUS DID FOR ME!

He saved me by his grace, delivered me from hell-fire, gave me his Holy Spirit, sealed me unto the day of redemption (that is, I cannot lose my salvation), gave me assurance of salvation, forgiven me of all my sins, paid for me with his own blood, destroyed the power of sin over my life, given me liberty and the ability to serve and please God, answers my prayers, leads me and guides me into all truth, teaches me his word by his Spirit, gave me a book to live by, given my sad heart cheer, given me joy, given me peace, put the songs of the praises of the Most High in my mouth, and given me a church that LOVES JESUS CHRIST, that gets more excited about Jesus than anything else, that loves his word, and loves to sing praises to his name and worships the LORD alone in the beauties of holiness!!

Has tradition done that for you?