

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart...

Beware! It's so easy for us to be caught up in the world's ideas and thinking. We are Christ's and need to walk according to Christ, not the world. "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him." (Col. 2:6) Jesus is the standard and His teachings are always the standard.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." (Col. 2:8) We need to "*see to it*" that we aren't taken captive by the "*traditions of men.*" It can happen so easily, especially this time of year. Man makes things a tradition that Christ doesn't teach or never taught. Man takes their own ideas, ties them to God and His Christ and comes up with things that look spiritual. Jesus said it this way about the Pharisees traditions: "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition." (Mark 7:9) The religious world is an expert at setting aside the word of God for their traditions! The question we must ask is this: is what we follow and believe, a tradition made up by man, a principle of the world, or is it really according to Christ? Paul warns the Colossians to be careful making sure it is of Christ.

A tradition is something handed down from another. Man has made many traditions over the years, making them to look like they were handed down from God. They can take us captive and the proof is when people get upset when you rattle their tradition. A man made tradition has no basis for it's teaching other than man. Paul reminded the Thessalonians, "So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or a letter from us." (II Thes. 2:15) What were the traditions they were taught? "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth." (II Thes. 2:13) The traditions were from God, His choosing to save them, His Spirit involved and their faith in the truth! They weren't made up but were directly from God. The apostles could teach to hold to the traditions they were taught because God handed them down! In other words, the traditions the apostles taught were from Divine authority, given to the apostles and need to be heeded.

Be careful, see to it we aren't taken captive by something handed down by man rather than by God. Study God's word, with a heart looking at what God wants us to remember and hold firmly to His truth. It's all right to enjoy holidays, but that's what they are, holidays! They aren't of God. Think about it!!!

Brent