

**Words of Wisdom** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [WECO FM 101.3](#) and [The Fellowship Room](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

## **6-05-2017 Ignorant Bible Critics**

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion (**Romans 11:25**).

Have you noticed that the people who criticize the Bible know practically nothing of its contents? Bible critics, most of the time, are ignorant of its theme, continuity, or preservation, and are only wise in their own opinion! Many atheists and skeptics, on the other hand, have become Bible-believers when they study what it actually says.

Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O LORD, And that a foolish people has blasphemed Your name (**Psalms 74:18**).

Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD-Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word (**Psalms 119:41-42**).

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## **6-06-2017 Traditions of Men**

Jesus condemned the Pharisees:

- 1) "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men" (**Mark 7:8**);
- 2) He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition" (**Mark 7:9**);
- 3) and for "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do" (**Mark 7:13**).

Jesus left no doubt that anyone who has a "tradition of men" that is not supported by the Word of God has laid aside, ignored, cancelled out the Bible from their faith!

"And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (**Mark 7:7**).

Unfortunately, many well-meaning people follow some Scriptures, but cancel out Bible faith with unfounded "traditions of men." Christians should not practice what the Bible doesn't teach!

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### **6-07-2017 Faith Without Works**

The Bible makes it clear that,

Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead (**James 2:17**).

Nowhere in the entire Bible has God blessed a person's faith without the obedient works which God specified! **James 2** makes that very point: **verses 14-18** say that without works of benevolence to a "brother or sister" in need is "dead" faith; **verses 19-20** show that "demons" believe truth about God, but without obedient works, their faith is "dead;" **verses 21-24** show that even Abraham's faith was "justified by works," "and not by faith only;" **verse 25** shows "Rahab the harlot" was "justified by works;" **verse 26** says "faith without works is dead" like a "body without the spirit."

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

Have you faith or faith only?

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### **6-08-2017 Keeping God's Word Pure**

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar (**Proverbs 30:5-6**).

Since "every word of God *is* pure," then everything that's been added makes it impure, and makes a liar out of everyone who teaches the change as if it were Scripture! From Paul's Jewish background, he wrote:

Even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified (**Galatians 2:15-16**).

[Christians] have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace (**Galatians 5:4**).

Christians are not free to observe Moses' Law today.

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### **6-09-2017 Traditional Faith**

Jesus said:

"For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men" (**Mark 7:8**).

A "tradition" is a belief or practice that is handed down. "Of men" means it has no authority from God's Word. It is easy for a "tradition of men" to become so entrenched in our thinking that we ignore, or lay aside, "the commandment of God!" Before He obeyed Christ, Paul was "more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers" (**Galatians 1:14**), but afterwards, he told Christians,

Keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you (**1 Corinthians 11:2**).

The Apostle taught:

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle (**2 Thessalonians 2:15**).

"Traditions" of "men," or ancestors are nowhere equal to "traditions" from the Word of God! Who started your "traditions?"

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