

Times of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a. m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- **2nd Sunday 2:00 p.m. Trinity Care Home Worship Service**
- **2nd Saturday 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study—at Ranch House Restaurant, Columbus, MS**
- **3rd Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study. (TBA)**
- **Young Bible Scholars monthly meeting (TBA)**
- **Monthly Ladies Class – (TBA)**
- **Gospel Meeting – April 26 – May 1**

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Eula Mae Harless, Joyce Manasco.
- **Limited Health:** Wade McCrary.
- **Prayer Requests:** Jerry Paschall's mother, Frank and Joann Butler.
- **Others to Remember:** Steve Coburn, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is undergoing therapy at Windsor Place Room 205. Julie Reese Vibrock, daughter of Brooke and Randy Vibrock is doing well.
- **Sick.** LaNette Coburn is recuperating from knee surgery on January 31. Jerry Pashcall's mother fell recently and is undergoing treatment.

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East Columbus Bulletin

Who's Teaching That Stuff?

The fifth of the Ten Commandments was to “Honor your Father and your Mother,” which included preserving their dignity by taking care of them in their old age. When the Pharisees came to Jesus with a complaint that His disciples did not keep the “traditions of the elders,” He exposed the hypocrisy of their traditions which denigrated their family responsibilities.

“You say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—(that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down and many such things you do.” (Mk 7:11-13)

Their excuse sounds like the old cliché “I gave at the office” at the time their parents were in need. Their pretentious behavior was obvious, and we would ask “Who's teaching that stuff?” Jesus said “for laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do...All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.” (Mk.7:8-9)

One of the “elephants in the room” was their handwashing, an elaborate show of knuckle grinding, taught by the traditions of their fathers. The convoluted practices of the day muddled up the difference between what men taught and what the Word of God actually said. On the next page are charts showing what the Law actually taught and what men had taught by comparison.

Moses had warned “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” (Deut. 4:2; 12:32)

<u>WHAT THE LAW SAID</u>	<u>TRADITIONS OF MEN</u>
Washings: - Ex 30:17-31 - Lev 15:11 (John’s baptism, which was before the baptism of the Gospel.)	Washings: - Mk 7:3-4 - Ironically, the Pharisees rejected the “Counsel of God “by rejecting this washing. (Lk 7:30)
Honor Parents: - Ex. 20:12	Honor Parents: - Mk 7:11
Remember the Sabbath: - Ex 31 :13-115	Remember the Sabbath: - Hungry disciples violated a finer point of the issue: Pharisaic tradition said that plucking grain on the Sabbath was allowable, but rubbing grain in one’s hands was threshing, which was work forbidden on the Sabbath. (Chumbley)
Oath Keeping: - Deut. 23:21-23	Oath Keeping: - Mt 23: 16-22

Jesus clarified that there are ultimately two sources of authority when He cleansed the temple and taught the people. He was asked by what authority He did those things; He pinpointed the baptism of John—was it from Heaven or from men? Their hand was forced, and they refused to answer. (Mt. 21:23-27)

If asking people to give a basis for their religious practices asking too much? (1 Pet 3: 15)

Sociologists tell us that children will likely hold to the religion of their parents (or the non-religion of their parents). Jesus asks individuals to forsake all and follow Him. (Lk 14) He expects people to have a grasp of the reasons for their belief and practices.

Today there are religious traditions which “make of no effect” the Word of God. The charts adjacent show a few of them.

That religion is on the wane in our country is no secret, and some suspect that the problem will “get worse before it gets better.” The Lord knows. One thing for sure, folks will be more likely to convert to Jesus Christ if those espousing Him are free of pretension and man-made traditions. Those who look for God will likely be asking “Who’s teaching that stuff?” And they should be asking.

<u>WHAT N. T. SAYS</u>	<u>TRADITIONS OF MEN</u>
The Church: - Mt 16:18 - Rom 16:16	Man-Made Churches: -Man-made names. -Man-made creeds. (This is what we believe)
Singing in Worship: -Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; 1 Cor 14:15	Music in Worship -Instruments, bands, gospel rock, gospel rap....
Priesthood: - Christ is High Priest Heb 10:21 - Christians as priests Heb 13:15; 1 Pet 5:2; 2 Tim 3	Priests in churches of Men: - Clergy - Special clothes, special names, special offices, none of which are mentioned in the N. T.
Elders: - Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5 1 Pet 5; 2 Tim 3	Various Arrangements: - (United Methodist church recently in the news, split over the question of homosexual leadership)
Gospel Obedience & Baptism - Mk 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16	Becoming a Christian - Infant baptism - Sinner’s prayer -Pray for a saved experience

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” (Jn 8: 31-32)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.” (1 Pet 3:15-16)

Who knows but that there will be another Great Awakening in our country, a third. By teaching God’s Word, -- nothing more, nothing less – it will stand on the solid rock that Jesus talked about in His sermon on the mount. (Mt 7: 21-27)

George Hutto