



Words of Wisdom October 2 - 6, 2023 by [John T Polk II](#)

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

10/2/2023

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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**10/3/2023**

### **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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10/4/2023

Suicide Or Salvation? (1)

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

Judas saw the Jesus condemned whom he knew was "innocent," and was "remorseful" (a word showing pain afterward). Jesus had used this very word to show a good result:

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. (**Matthew 21:28-29**).

Godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation (**2 Corinthians 7:10**).

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**10/5/2023**

**Suicide Or Salvation? (2)**

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

When Judas realized how bad his betrayal of Jesus was, he turned to the wrong people. He tried to give back the betrayal money to the people he had made the bargain with, but they refused. Remember a lesson from Judas Iscariot: the people who help you sin will not be the people who help you reform! The fleeting moment when Judas' conscience hurt was met with coldness by the people who were condemning an innocent Jesus!

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10/6/2023

Suicide Or Salvation? (3)

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

The money Judas thought meant so much before this moment, must have sounded cheap, indeed, as it jingled on the floor. Truly,

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (**1 Timothy 6:10**).

And in the process, have ruined many innocent lives!

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches (**Proverbs 22:1**).

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