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Word of Life



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Saved Like The Thief?

by Perry Sexton



Many believe it!

But

**is that what God would have us to
do to be saved???**

(Please study all Scriptures and their context, King James Version used. Please read all verses.)

In all sincerity many people think they can be saved like the thief on the cross, but is this true? If it is not true, then many people will be lost eternally because of this false doctrine. Now is the time to learn the truth before it is everlastingly too late (compare [cp.] Matt. 7:21-23).

Please read the inspired account of the thief on the cross in a reliable version of the Bible such as the KJV or NKJV: **Luke 23:32-43.**

Why Do You Transgress The Commandment Of God By Your Tradition? (part 2 of 2)

by Perry Sexton

Believe it or not, on many occasions religious people of Jesus' day rebuked Jesus for not keeping the "traditions" of men. Some men have always held the commands or traditions of men in higher esteem than God's commands. Please read Matthew 15:1-14 and Mark 7:5-13. Here we have a classic example of the selfishness of man. The law of God is that man should take care of his elderly parents when in need, but evil, however religious, men came up with a way of "getting around" the command of God. They said of their money and other possessions, "It is a gift," i.e., to God and therefore they could not help their parents (Mark 7:12). How ungodly, how selfish!

Listen to Jesus' answer to them: "And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:9). And: "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye" (Mark 7:13). This is a most serious offence! Whoever does such things are setting at naught God, and taking His place.

Men are still rejecting the commandments of God. A few years ago Christmas fell on Sunday. Many churches of men (denominations) cancelled their Sunday services altogether because of Christmas. Christmas is a tradition of men which must not be celebrated in any religious manner whatsoever. But many religious people do so contrary to God's will. On the other hand, the first day of the week (Sunday) is the Lord's Day (Revelation 1:9). This is the day in which Christians (the church) are to assemble themselves together (Hebrews 10:25) in worship to almighty God (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2).

Those denominational leaders rejected the command of God in order to keep their own tradition! Who are they really serving???"For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" (Romans 16:18).

Oh to be sure, in man's thinking there are many "wise" reasons why we should celebrate Christmas as Christ's birthday, but none from God! They're all from men (cp. 1 Corinthians 1:20ff). Are you guilty of: "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, ..." (Mark 7:13)? Are you guilty of following the "blind leaders" (cp. Matthew 15:14)? Please, for your own soul's sake, examine yourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5).

The Lord's birth versus the Lord's death: We have record of the Lord's birth in the gospel accounts (ex. Matthew 1:18ff). But nowhere in the Bible do we have authority (no command, no example) for celebrating the birth of Christ. Mankind who are truly desiring to serve God unselfishly will soon learn that we must have authority for everything we do in religion (Colossians 3:17; John 4:24, etc.).

We have record of the Lord's death in the gospel accounts (ex. Matthew 27). But, unlike the birth, we do have commands and examples to remember the Lord's death in a special manner: "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. {25} After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

God shows us through His Word when and how often to partake of the Lord's Supper. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight" (Acts 20:7). **When**? The first day of the week which is our Sunday. **How often**? Again, the first day of the week: every Sunday.

But men set aside God's will and replace it with their own will. Those denominations cancelled their church services on Sunday the Lord's Day in order to observe Christmas at home or wherever. The Lord's Day and the worship God has prescribed were set aside in order for these churches created by man to observe their own made up holiday, and all in the name of God. Clearly Matthew 15:8,9 speaks to them as well as many throughout history: "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for*

doctrines the commandments of men." This leads to eternal destruction! Are you following these evil traditions of men? Hear Jesus in verse 14 and be aware: "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Men are even rejecting God's way of salvation. God's way of salvation is plain and easy to understand, IF we will just listen to the Bible and not men. Amazingly, many cannot muster enough faith to truly follow God. They have to have some man to follow. This is very sad and damnable (Matthew 15:8-14).

Please go back to the section under the heading "Why so many fail the test" (part 1). Was the command given to Adam hard to understand? Surely not, but what about this statement of fact from our loving Savior: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Is this hard to understand? Surely not. If you think so, it is because you are listening to men rather than to God!

Religious men of every man-made church have altered God's teaching on baptism in some form. Multitudes of "wise" (cp. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff) reasons have been given by "religious" men why what Jesus said on baptism is not true. Amazing!!! Yet every conversion example in the New Testament proves that what Jesus said is true. If you would like a free chart on this please let me know.

The bottom line is: Where do you stand? Do you stand unselfishly with God, or do you stand with selfish men? Will you obey God in all things, or will you obey the commandments of men which set at naught the commands of God. The choice is yours. It has always been so with man (remember Eve, Cain, and the majority of men). Be aware, in any generation only a few have truly followed God (remember Noah, Abraham, and the few faithful in the Bible). Jesus said: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13,14).

We pray that you will seek (Matthew 7:7) with an honest heart (Luke 8:15) and you will find the truth (John 8:31,32). If we may assist you please let us know. ♥



"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).