

The Old Paths

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“Christ’s Written Accusation”

Jarrod Jacobs

Four times in Scripture we read about the written charge or accusation made against Christ at His crucifixion. This statement, well-known to most, was nailed above Him while He hung on the cross (Matt. 27:37; Mk. 15:26; Lk. 23:38; Jn. 19:19). This statement said that it was “Jesus the King of the Jews” who was being crucified. While the chief priests protested this statement, Pilate stood firm on this thing, saying, “What I have written, I have written” (Jn. 19:21-22).

In studying this event, we see that the inscription or accusation was written in three languages, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. This is significant, for regardless of who might have been present that day, those who looked upon Christ on the cross could have read the title. The Hebrew language was the language of revelation. God’s specific authority had come through the Hebrews up to this time. The Greek language was the language of the philosophers and “great thinkers” of the day such as Plato and Aristotle. The Latin language was the language of government and power. This is the language Caesar and Pilate spoke as well as the others within the Roman government. Therefore, such a paper was a world-wide announcement! When we with our mind’s eye look to the cross, we see a Suffering Savior who was announced as “King of the Jews” to all.

In truth, we see that Pilate’s accusation had a greater meaning than perhaps even he realized. We see that Christ being the Word (Jn. 1:1) shows us that He is God’s revelation. In “times past” God spoke to men in various ways, but now speaks to us through his Son (Heb. 1:1-2). Christ is also able to discern the uttermost thoughts of men’s hearts (Jn. 2:24-25, 6:64). This makes Him greater than any philosopher. In addition to these, we see Jesus as the lawgiver (Jas. 4:12; Gal. 6:2). He revealed “the perfect law of liberty” (Jas. 1:25), that which will lead us to Heaven. No one before or since has been able to accomplish or give as much as Christ.

Pilate may not have realized how true and far-reaching his accusation was when he wrote it. Yet, the statement is still true! Today, we who became Christians had our sins forgiven when we accepted His terms of salvation (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; etc.). At the same time, we who are His children are the recipients of God’s blessings (Eph. 1:3) when we listen to the revelation, apply His true philosophies, and obey His law (Eph. 3:4; Rev. 1:5, 22:14)! If we want to have salvation from sins and look forward to an eternal life in Heaven, then let us stop rejecting the Lord. Let us follow what the Lord says unconditionally, knowing that He is the One who possesses all authority “in heaven and in earth” (Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17). He is our king (Rev. 17:14, 19:16; I Tim. 6:15), and wants us in Heaven with Him.

Traditions Or Traditions?

Jarrod Jacobs

The word “tradition” has become somewhat of a by-word or buzz-word for many. For some, anything they associate with being “traditional,” or with things that “we” have done quite often, is rejected. When speaking of “traditional” things, a look and air of disdain comes upon them. They belittle those things they consider “traditional.” Some wish to do things different for no other reason than for the sake of being different. This is unfortunate.

Today, if there is anything which someone could say has been done for ‘x’ amount of time, then these ones are ready to throw it out, to try something “new” and “exciting.” (That is, until that thing becomes a “tradition”!) Solomon made the point that there is nothing for which it can be said, “See this is new” (Ecc. 1:10).

“Tradition” Needs A Context.

The reason I titled the article the way I did is because tradition does not always mean tradition. Just because something is a tradition doesn’t mean we must do it. At the same time, some things called “traditions” must be accepted and obeyed because they are commanded of God! We find the English word “tradition” seven times in the Bible, but it is used in two very different ways. This is why we must define “tradition” according to its Bible context. Contrast the way this word is used in the following verses:

1) “tradition of the elders” (Matt. 15:2; Mk. 7:3, 5). 2) “your tradition” (Matt.

15:3, 6; Mk. 7:9, 13). 3) “tradition of men” (Mk. 7:8; Col. 2:8). 4) “tradition of my fathers” (Gal. 1:14). 5) “traditions which ye have been taught” (II Thess. 2:15). 6) “tradition which he received of us” (II Thess. 3:6). 7) “tradition from your fathers” (I Pet. 1:18).

Notice that on two occasions, “tradition” was used with the understanding that one is expected to continue in certain things or be considered a sinner and condemned in the sight of God (II Thess. 2:15, 3:6). These “traditions” were words passed down by God, through Christ, to the apostles, and then to the Christians up to today (II Tim. 2:2). These are the things which must continue, regardless of whether or not men belittle them as “traditional”!

There may be an attitude among some which says that if certain things have “always” been done, then this can never change. Such an attitude can be detrimental to a group of God’s people if it is allowed to go unrestrained. Just because someone doesn’t like a change does not mean that the change is sinful. (Read: Hebrews 7:12-14) Therefore, we can have certain traditions, or certain things which have been an expedient practice of men, and then change them or omit them altogether, and there be no sin involved.

Examples of this include: 1) Whether or not we have a chalkboard/ whiteboard or an overhead/ powerpoint projector. Though these are commonly seen in church buildings, to have or not have such tools does not constitute sin. 2) The order of services can be changed and not constitute sin. If we have three songs and a prayer before the sermon, or a prayer first, then two songs, or any other combination, this does not

constitute sin if we change our “traditional” order for another order. 3) Some congregations have the worship service and then the Bible class, others have the Bible class first, while still others have a Sunday AM and PM Bible class, and some have no Bible classes on Sunday. To change, or rearrange our “traditional” order does not constitute sin.

Yet, the Bible speaks of some traditions which, if changed, would result in sin. Therefore, such things need to be left alone. For example: 1) If we said that a man doing the preaching was “traditional,” and we asked a sister to preach one day, this is sin (I Tim. 2:12). 2) To add instruments to our singing, or to stop singing altogether would be a change in “tradition” that would result in sin (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15). 3) To declare that it is a sin to have Bible classes on Sunday, or to say that there is only one “authorized” time for such becomes sin as we have no right to bind where God has not bound (I Pet. 4:11). Other examples could be added to this list, we know.

Conclusion

Before we get too “trigger-happy” putting down and changing “traditions”, let us make sure that the traditions we are discussing are ones that we have the right to change! Some traditions we have no right or authority to change!

“Why I Am A Member Of The church Of Christ”

A.C. Grider (1912-1990)

I didn’t join the church of Christ. I didn’t select the church of Christ as “my choice” from among many churches. It never occurred to me that I had a choice nor that I desired to make a choice of churches.

I started thinking about my spiritual condition down in Tennessee some years ago—several years ago and made up my mind that I should do something about it. I began to consider what the Lord wanted me to do. I started to study my Bible.

I found that I was a sinner and that Christ was THE savior. I found that if I were ever saved it would only be by Christ. I considered His word relative to what to do to be saved. He said I should **repent**, Luke 13:3, I did. He said I should **confess** Him, Matthew 10:32. I did. He said I should **be baptized**, Mark 16:16. I did. He said if I would do these things I would BE SAVED. I was. But the BIBLE taught that when I was saved the Lord added me to the church, Acts 2:47. He did.

Now, WHICH CHURCH did he add me to? HIS, Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16. Thus I am a member of the church of Christ because I had NO CHOICE and wanted none. I just wanted to be saved. And I was!

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www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

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Sunday Morning Worship _____ 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship _____ 6:00 p.m.

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