

Back into the 8th chapter of Romans again? Yes! There was more to see! But after we set it up there, we did a walkabout to check out what it's all about. The conclusion? I think maybe the Church needs a "reset".

What does that mean? Well, over the centuries we've piled too much tradition onto the word of God, it's time to clean it out.

Last week we talked about the fact that the traditions of men can cause the Word of God to become ineffective because it's been miss-directed so that missed the objective. It seems that these traditions have affected, in some cases even corrupted, so much of Church doctrine that I'd like to call for a reset.

You know, when a computer or a phone gets out of whack you can do a factory reset. The reset clears out what's been added on and repairs the corrupted code that keeps the device from functioning properly. There's a parallel here with The Church.

Over the centuries a lot of code has been corrupted and so much "tradition of men" has been added that it's sometimes difficult for the average person on the street to tell the difference between what God said – "Spirit", from what man has added – "flesh".

Remember the context of Romans 8 that we stressed last week, the picture is not of born again people – Spirit, and unsaved people, flesh. It's born again people "walking down from The Spirit" as opposed to (probably) born again people walking in the dictates of the flesh – the rules, regulation, and doctrines out from the tradition of men...

In this respect, The Church in The World is no different than the Jewish leaders that Jesus dealt with. The 7th Chapter of Mark records His interaction with them as they tried to accuse His guys of being ungodly by violating the law because they ate without first washing their hands. **And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men. And many such things you do."** (verses 6-8)

Then, after rehearsing the matter and taking it up a notch, the 13th verse says, **"thus making the word of God of no effect by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."** Jesus repeated the phrase twice, this wasn't all, there's more!

For instance, yesterday we also talked about "carrying your mat" from John 5 after the lame man was healed on the Sabbath. Instead of rejoicing in the manifestation of God's love and power, the Pharisees were upset because the man was carrying His bed on the Sabbath. Then they went after Jesus for "working" on the Sabbath when He healed the man. Then they went on to want to kill Him because He said, **"My Father is working until now, and I am working."** Turns out, the Law of Moses contains 6 or 7 requirements for the Law of the Sabbath and carrying your bed isn't in there. They had added 32 to make it 39! And obviously, healing a lame man on the Sabbath is not the "work" that The Law talked about. And they wanted to punish a man who had been delivered by God from an infirmity that he had endured for 38 years and kill the One Who healed him! They needed a reset and a spanking!

We took the time yesterday to talk specifically about baptism, communion, and salvation. We discussed how the traditions that developed and have been handed down to people as The Word of God have sometimes had detrimental effects on The Body of Christ. We are aghast looking at what the Jewish leaders did, but in the name of Church there's been worse. And the Jews were working down from the flesh, we have the God granted ability to walk in The Spirit! Let's be grateful to God and faithful to Jesus and His Word. Let's hold fast to the commandment of Love. And let's beware of the traditions of men, they can make The Word of no effect!

Love never fails!

