

TRADITION

The New Testament contains the word TRADITION written thirteen times.

This number is approximate, as it varies according to the Bible translations consulted.

Matthew 15:2, "Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat."

Matthew 15:3, "But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?"

Matthew 15:6, "He will not honor his father or mother at all. And so you have made the word of God of no effect for the sake of your tradition."

Mark 7:3, "(For the Pharisees and all the Jews, holding the tradition of the elders, do not eat unless they wash their hands carefully."

Mark 7:5, "The Pharisees and scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with unwashed hands?"

Mark 7:8, "Neglecting the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men."

Mark 7:9, "And he said unto them, Surely ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

Mark 7:13, "making the word of God of none effect by your tradition which you have handed down to us; and many other like things you do."

1 Corinthians 11:2, "But I praise you, because you remember me in everything and hold fast the traditions just as I delivered them to you."

Galatians 1:14, "Now in Judaism I advanced above many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers."

Colossians 2:8, "Beware lest anyone spoil you through philosophy and empty deceit, after the tradition of men, after the basic principles of the world, and not after Christ." 2 Thessalonians 2:15, "So then, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by our letter." 2 Thessalonians 3:6, "We command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord

Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother who walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which you received from us."

Eight times, it was said in relation to the traditions of Judaism; some of these times, by the Lord Jesus himself.

Five times they were spoken by the Apostle Paul to Christians; first, commending the Corinthians for keeping the Christian traditions, just as they received them from him; second, to the Galatians, speaking of himself, of how zealous he was for the traditions of his fathers, in Judaism; third, to the Colossians, exhorting them not to be entangled in the traditions of men, according to the rudiments of the world; and, fourth and fifth, exhorting the Thessalonians to keep the Christian traditions received from him.

For the Church of Christ in the 21st century, the Apostle Paul's exhortation to the Thessalonians reported in the two verses cited remains quite up to date.

In this 2nd Epistle, the main subject concerns the coming of Christ.

The Apostle instructs the Thessalonians that the coming of Christ will not happen unless the apostasy comes first, and the antichrist is revealed.

To contextualize, here is what is contained in the 2nd Epistle to the Thessalonians, chapter 2: 1 to 12.
“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we urge you, brothers, not to be easily shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter as though from us, as if the day of the Lord had come.

Let no one deceive you by any means, for that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits in the temple of God, displaying himself as God.

Do you not remember that, while I was still with you, I used to tell you these things?
And now you know what withholds that he might not be revealed until the appointed time.”
For the ministry of lawlessness is already at work, and only waits for the one who now holds it to be removed; and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.
Now the coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.

A little further on, the Apostle quotes the following two verses; the first, and a little further on, the second:

2 Thessalonians 2:15, “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by our letter.”

2 Thessalonians 3:6, “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which ye received of us.”

It seems that the Christians in Thessalonica were disturbed by false claims and rumors that the Lord had already returned.

So, the Apostle states that this would not happen unless apostasy first came, which means a change of religion, a change of belief, a desertion of the faith; and the antichrist was revealed.

It teaches that the son of perdition opposes everything that is called God or is an object of worship, to the point of sitting in the sanctuary of God, showing himself as if he were God himself.

This can happen materially or spiritually; we know that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, the sanctuary of God. Could it be the case that someone is taken over by another deceiving spirit, and that spirit boasts as if it were God?

The Apostle further states that the emergence of the antichrist will be according to the working of Satan, with all power, and signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deceivableness.

This man or spirit comes to deceive all who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.

In conclusion, the Apostle exhorts Christians to keep the TRADITIONS that were taught to them, whether by word or by epistle. Word spoken, oral; and epistle, written.

Here is a warning for those who believe that only what is written counts. In other words, if it is not written in the Bible, I do not follow it.

Here is a warning for those who seek signs, wonders... Be very careful!

Nowadays, there is no shortage of new things. It seems that the exhortation would be to exchange traditions for new things.

Some have stopped celebrating the Eucharist, others no longer baptize, we have new doctrines, and so on...

We can only think of disregarding a tradition if it is completely contrary to biblical teachings and principles; if it has any trace of it in the word, never.

They say that the Bible is interpreted by the Bible. Yes, but it is also interpreted by the Bible and traditions.

If the Bible teaches us something that is in accordance with traditions, we cannot even think of giving a different interpretation to what is written.

The book of Revelation, in chapter 13: 11 to 13, speaks about the beast that emerges from the earth, the following: "Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon.

He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. He causes the earth and its inhabitants to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound had been healed.

He also performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven to the earth in full view of men."

Dear brothers, be careful! The one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire is the Lord Jesus.

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Biblical texts extracted from the JOAO FERREIRA DE ALMEIDA version – Revised and Updated.