Some Effects of Human Tradition on Religion
Matt. 15:1-3

Introduction:
   1. Can be good (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6)
   2. Can be bad (v. 3; Col 2:8).
B. “Human tradition” associated with the church.
   1. Can be harmless — cf. Hour of service, Wednesday night, building style, etc. — they work.
   2. Can be harmful — if violate law or if become law.
C. Our text shows the effects that human traditions had on the Jews.

Discussion:
I. They Set Aside Divine Law (vv. 3-6)
   A. By contradicting law (vv. 5-6)
   B. By elevating it above law (cf. Traditional view of preachers over content of preaching)
   C. By giving tradition equal weight as law.
II. They Had a Warped View of Religion (v. 5)
   A. By separating “religious life” from “real life.”
      1. Use divine service as excuse for neglecting human service (text)
      2. Use human service as excuse for neglecting divine service (cf. Mt. 26:6-3).
   B. By exactness in ritual, but looseness in other matters (Matt. 23:23,24)
      1. Insist on exactness in worship, but loose in with work.
      2. Intolerant of corrupt worship, but ignore daily deeds of live and kindness.
III. They Reduced Worship to Lip-service (v. 8).
   A. Must honor with lips and heart (cf. John 4:24; Rom. 10:10)
   B. Must obey from the heart (Rom. 6:17).
IV. They Worshiped God in Vain (v. 9).
   A. By “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” (Cf. Psa. 127:1)
   B. By assuming a thing morally right to be religiously right (v. 2).
      1. Instrumental music in worship to God.
      2. Social and recreational activities in church work (cf. 1 Cor. 11:22,34).
V. They Resisted Criticism of Their Traditions (v. 12)
   A. Tend to love own creations more than God’s — doctrines, institutions, and practices.
   B. Many will accept criticism of Lord’s church easier than cherished human institution.
VI. They Would Not Stand the Test of Judgment (vv. 13, 14)

Conclusion:
A. Let us follows tradition handed down from God rather than men.
B. Let us not elevate any tradition to a position of divine law.