Worshiping God in Vain
Mark 7:1-13

Introduction:
A. It is not enough to just worship the one true God.
   1. He must be worshiped in truth and spirit (John 4:24)
   2. He may be worshiped in vain (v. 7)
      a. By what is offered. (v. 7, 13)
      b. By how it is offered (v. 6).
B. Pharisees illustrated three ways that we can make our worship vain.

Discussion:
   A. Important to distinguish between holy and profane/common (Ezek. 44:23)
   B. Washing was morally right, but religiously wrong.
   C. Religious people today turn many common practices into religious practices.
      1. By turning common activities into worship activities.
         a. Hamburger and coke good, but not on Lord’s table (Mt. 26:29).
         b. Instrumental music good, but not as religious music (Eph. 5:19).
      2. By turning common works into church work.
         a. Bake sales, car washes, etc. good, but not for church finance (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
         b. Common meals good, not as church function (1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
         c. Recreational programs good for family, school, etc., not as church work (Eph. 4:12).
         d. General benevolence programs, not for church (1 Tim. 5:16).
II. By Reducing Religious Service to Mere Lip Service (v. 6)
   A. One thing to mouth our worship — another to worship from heart (cf. John 4:24).
   B. One thing to talk about faith and love — another to prove it (Jas. 2:14-18).
   C. One thing to say, “I am of Christ” — another to truly be of Christ.
III. By Using One Duty to Offset Another Duty (vv. 9-13)
   A. Giving to God did not relieve their duty to parents — nor vice versa.
   B. There is room to meet all our responsibilities (Mark 12:14-17)
   C. “Church” activities do not relieve us of “individual” responsibilities — nor vice versa.

Conclusion:
A. Let us make a difference between the holy and profane.
B. Let us do more than give lip service to our faith.
C. Let us meet all our responsibilities.
D. Let us obey God - not human tradition.