

Traditions

2 Ths 2:13 – He just got through writing about the mystery of what is going to be happening in the last days. We have to understand about the mystery of lawlessness.

Then He goes on to a different subject in the 13th verse. It says we are bound under obligation to give thanks to our Father for you. We are beloved by YHWH because God from the beginning chose us for salvation through being set apart. It's not just sanctification, but it is being set apart. We receive salvation through being set apart by the Spirit. When you receive the Spirit you were set apart, you came out of this perverse generation and were set apart into an environment where salvation can take place. Salvation through sanctification, by the Spirit and belief in the truth. We were set apart for salvation.

Lk 19:9 — Our Master was talking to Zaccius. He said that today salvation has come to his house because he also is a son of Abraham. He was a tax collector but he was a son of Abraham so he could receive salvation.

What does a son of Abraham do? He does the deeds of Abraham. What were the deeds of Abraham that he was set apart for? He was set apart to command his household and children after him. He was sanctified, set apart in order to raise his children and his household. He had all kinds of people in his household, but especially his son. He was a marvelous slave master. Abraham had so many slaves; it's just amazing the community he had. We should read about him sometime. He acquired many servants because he was a good abba and master. He had a marvelous household. It was orderly and they were well trained. He could command them to do anything and they would do it. Those servants were just amazing, appreciative of Abraham. If it weren't for him they would be alone, not even able to make a living, but they were together and had a marvelous life.

A son of Abraham is a commander. It makes you a son of Abraham if you can command your children and your household after you to keep the way of YHWH.

The first Edah didn't keep that way — to do righteousness and justice and to bring about finally what our Father promised Abraham when He walked through the split animals and said, "Let the same thing be done to me if I don't find the people someday who will fulfill this covenant" (Gen 15:17-18).

It hasn't been fulfilled yet that He would bring His natural seed back to the land and give them that land which He has promised — the Promised Land between the river of Euphrates and the river of Egypt. It will happen in the next age. This is what we are working and laboring for. This can't happen though unless we are commanders. Gen 18:19 says what it takes to happen so that is why it hasn't happened since.

Israel was for the most part a miscreant bunch, disobedient, and prone to idol worshipping. They had to be sent away for discipline and then the ten tribes never returned. A little remnant from Judah returned and the rest were scattered, but our Father is even going to find some of them in the last days. They will work and command their children and household. They will be the true sons of Abraham in order to bring about the promise made to Abraham so our Father won't have to be cursed.

Jer 34:18 — If you're a wise virgin you will listen and won't be distracted. You can tell if you're wise or not. You can tell if a child is under control or not.

It goes on talking about salvation in 2 Thessalonians. That is what salvation is. Salvation for Zacchias is a present possession. Salvation is a present possession but it has something to do with the future. It's a future realization. That is the salvation that he was talking about.

Salvation is not completed unless we are the sons of Abraham able to command our household. We have to be obedient well-trained sons. Our Master took a well-trained son and stood him up saying that we have to become like that in order to enter the kingdom. We might be converted, but unless we become like this well-trained child we will not enter the kingdom. We ought to be like well-trained children by our Father and we have to train our children well in order to be a seed of Abraham. That's what a seed of Abraham is.

2 Ths 2:14 says that to which He called you by our gospel for obtaining the glory of our Master Yahshua and ruling with him. That is the kingdom. By no means can you enter the kingdom except we be the true sons of Abraham, being obedient, doing what Abraham did.

His glory is something we have to obtain for the next age. "Therefore brethren stand fast." Paul was telling them

to stand fast in the traditions which were taught whether by word or by letter. He was trying to tell them that they needed to hold fast to the things that he taught them, not just Bible verses, but what he taught them as a people in order that they could be a well-trained people and do what our Father had in mind for them to do. Obviously they didn't because if you went to Thessalonica today you wouldn't find a trace of that Edah there. 2 Ths 3:6 says, "In the name of our Master Yahshua to withdraw, not have anything to do with, not even talk to any brother who walks disorderly and not according to the traditions which he has learned from us." We wouldn't even talk to a person like this, but withdraw from him because he is a destroyer.

Now you can see why the first church fell away. They might have learned Bible verses in the Old Testament or Paul's epistles but if they didn't obey the traditions that were passed on to them you were not supposed to have anything to do with them.

Paul was their sent one. They wouldn't have salvation if it weren't for him and their sins wouldn't have been forgiven. He was trusted to pass on traditions to them. So you can see why the first church fell away.

What does *tradition* mean? A tradition is a precept. A precept is a principle or rule imposing a standard of action or conduct. That's what it says in the Greek dictionary and the Strong's Concordance. That's what Paul told them to do, so here we are. What did he say? What are those traditions that he passed on to them?

Is it written down anywhere? Can you find any of the traditions he passed on written down in the Bible? This is something we have to understand. It's something the Thessalonians didn't understand or they just didn't do it.

If they would have, they still would be standing, standing fast.

If you're disobedient to that, no matter how much you obey the Bible it's not going to do any good. If you obey the traditions and don't obey the Bible that doesn't do any good either. They both go together. You've got to do both of them. You don't just eat the filling of a sandwich by itself because it would fall apart, but you have to have the bread to hold it together.

Tradition or the Word

So that's what Paul was talking about. We need to find out what those traditions are. Try to find them.

Look them up and show me what they are.

Levi – Heb 10:24 – spurring one another on to love and good deeds. Is that a tradition?

No, we call that "the Word." That's what's recorded as the Word, but the traditions aren't written down.

Traditions are something different. Something he wanted his people to do to maintain good health and well being, and to live a life that represents our Master. So just understand what Paul was trying to say.

Yachath – I was thinking about what it says in Ephesians 6 where it talks about bringing up your children in the discipline and instruction of Yahshua. It's that tradition that brings about a culture, a nation of people. Through obeying that brings about our cultural life where our children are raised up to be commanders like Abraham. That's what our Father wants to instill in our children, that they would respect authority because they are going to have that authority upon them. They are going to have that responsibility on them someday to be parents and to raise the next generation so that the Male Child could come about. This is our goal. Isa 9:7 – He will establish His throne and it will be upheld by righteousness and justice. That's why our children will have to keep the way by doing righteousness and justice. That upholds his authority. By our children being raised in that standard then His authority is going to come about.

Eish – The word of our Master inspires obedient disciples to live the word in certain ways. It's not written in the scriptures that we should do certain things, certain ways. The ways that we are distinct from others, the way we dress, our traditions and the way that we act and react. The Spirit inspires the ones who really want to live the word because the word is something tangible. It is something spiritual, but you have to put it into practice and live in certain ways — in the traditions. This is the way that people will come to know us and who we are.

Water and Prolonged days and Wild Children...

So we are understanding things... Isa 53:10 says that He will prolong the days of the offspring of our Master Yahshua. So how is He going to prolong our days? What are just one of the ways that He will

prolong our days? Do we read it in the Bible?

He teaches us what to eat and how much water to drink. What if Paul would have said to the Thessalonians, “Ok, I want you to drink plenty of water today because it’s good for your immune system and will prolong your days.”

What if there were people who just didn’t do that. What were they supposed to do with them? If they weren’t being obedient to Paul and were not drinking enough water to give them good health, were they supposed to get them down on the floor and stand on them, prying their mouth open to pour water down their throat? It shouldn’t have to be that way.

When you’re trying to encourage a brother to drink his water, why should we withdraw from him because he doesn’t drink his water? We’ve warned them, talked to them, encouraged them, and they just won’t do it because they always forget every day. So then they get sick or they die. What’s going to happen? Are they being sanctified?

Where do we find the traditions of training our children? How are we supposed to discipline our children? Do we do it on the third command and after we’ve reasoned with them. Something has got to be brought in what the standard is on how we are to raise our children. What is the standard? Are we living up to the standard of those precepts, rules of conduct? Do we not discipline on the first command because we think it’s unreasonable? Is it good or bad? Should we discipline on the third or fourth command or should we wait until we get angry?

It all works together. This is one of the many traditions that our Father has given us through His Holy Spirit, through His anointing. This is how He wants us to be. If we find people who aren’t doing that and we talk to them about their sin and they don’t listen, this is not just a sin against their children, it’s a sin against the whole body. It’s a sin against the whole body because they are going to raise children who won’t be obedient.

So these are the kind of people who we should withdraw from because they’re going to defile the whole Edah. If they want to be like that then they can go out and start their own community of wild children.

The Tradition of Swaddling

Swaddling is another tradition. We really believe this is from our Father and that it is very good for our children for the first few months. Swaddling must be good, for our Master was swaddled. It’s still a tradition in some countries. They’ve done studies on its effect on children. Children who were swaddled and well trained are peaceful while the ones who weren’t run wild. The people who were swaddled are the ones who are gentle and controlled. I believe that and I believe that our Father wants us to swaddle. What if we don’t do it? Are we part of Israel? This is one of those precepts. It’s a tradition. How to discipline our children, how to love them, how to encourage them seven times more than we discipline them, these are all traditions.

Haggai – Tradition gives us an identity for our nation. If we don’t keep these traditions then we don’t want to identify with our nation. We are glad when there are more traditions so we can be clear of our own identity. We need more and more traditions because we find out who we are. Our Father has given us His Spirit and the anointing that is teaching us all things. We need to find out who we are. I’m thankful our Father is speaking to us concerning our traditions as a people. But the traditions are horrifying in some religions. The Pharisees had the traditions of the Talmud, which caused them to hate our Master. But we can’t just throw tradition out because it’s been misused or because of horrible traditions of the past. We have to have the Holy Spirit teaching us the things that are pleasing to Him, proper traditions. Emet – We have an anointing that teaches us all things. So what does that mean when you reject the traditions that the anointing teaches you? This means that you reject the one who is anointed — our Master Yahshua. Actually that is the reality of what you do.

Something is spoken here in the Body and it is clear that it is spoken from the head and the oil is going down to the edge of the robe and you’re somewhere along that path of the oil and you decide that you’re not going to receive that oil, you have to know what you’re doing. You’re rejecting the one that the oil comes from and that is our Master Yahshua.

That's why it says in the word to submit to one another out of reverence for Messiah because when we don't submit to one another we don't have reverence for Him. We can't just say that we love our Master but we don't love you. This just isn't reality.

In 2 Thessalonians it talked about how they're being sanctified in the spirit and faith in the truth. So if we reject those things then it's like we receive those doubts that say that maybe the Spirit isn't here or it's all just words.

Our Master said that if we are willing to do His will then we will know the teaching, not just whether it comes from the Bible but whether it comes from God or from man.

We are taught all kinds of things — discipline on the first command, swaddling, drinking water, and exercise. We are taught everything pertaining to godliness so we can have that identity as His people. Israel means that we are ruled by Him and we will rule with Him. We have to be ruled by Him first before we can rule with Him. It doesn't make any sense that we would sit on the throne beside Him if we were not ruled by Him. That's why Paul said they are unruly — not ruled over. I'm thankful that we can be ruled over because it talks about the man of lawlessness and the great deception that is going to come about.

Paul was looking ahead to where all this was going. Where people were going when they wouldn't receive the little things from the anointing about food or whatever, having our mind just a little bit different. Saying that it's not so bad if we do this once in a while and just not judging our hearts and clinging to the anointing.

You can see that it takes a love for the truth and not just kind of filtering the truth through our own opinions, choosing what to follow. It says "receive a love for the truth." We have to receive it and embrace every little thing that we hear. If we don't then we will be led astray. We can't think that it is just a little thing that doesn't really matter. Disciples live by every word that proceeds from His mouth. That is our real food.

We have to judge ourselves all the time. We need to check our attitudes and what is hindering us. Some things we will increase in but we need to make clear whether it is an attitude or forgetfulness that we don't drink our water. When we hear that voice inside do we really stop what we are doing and get water?

I want to receive a love for the truth and I want to receive His word. I'm thankful for the word and I don't want to make excuses.

Sandwiches

Asher – I was thinking about what we heard about the traditions being the meat in the sandwich. You can't have a sandwich without something in it. Lots of people have the Bible but don't have anything to go along with it. They only have pure doctrine. They don't have any life.

They even have a hard time with things we have as traditions. They say that we're under the law or whatever. The greatest tradition we have is that we live in community. People say well show it to me in the Bible where it says you have to live in community. It doesn't say in the Bible that we have to live in community, so then they say I don't do it because I only do what it says in red letters, what Jesus said. That's what separates those who are willing to be lawful from those who are lawless.

Because we want to do our Father's will and be lawful this is what puts the meat in the sandwich. We are willing to lay down our lives to be the meat in the sandwich.

It seems like a lot of what keeps people from giving up their life is their tradition. They grew up with certain traditions, certain ways that they would never want to give up.

Our Father is establishing a whole new social order where a whole set of new traditions are being established. So they have to give up their Spanish, French, English, and Polynesian traditions so they can take on our Father's mind. It really costs our life to give up all those things that hinder us from taking on His mind and to be His people.

It really encouraged me because people have so many accumulated traditions for hundreds of years; some are conscientious and some aren't, but we are just becoming a nation. We don't have all that time

so it's important that what our Father gives us we would whole-heartedly support it and want to see it established. We want to build upon the traditions that we already have because some of those things have been lost. Everything Paul had said has all been lost, but it was spoken to us so how important it is for us to keep it and want to see it established. The Jews were living by tradition alone. That's why they killed the Messiah. Their traditions led them away from the word. You can't find written that you have to live in community in the Bible but it's how you read it. How are you supposed to lay down your life for your brothers, encouraging one another daily, and how are you supposed to be baptized into Messiah? How do you read the word *Edah*? *Edah* is community. No one had to write down that you have to live in community, all you have to do is read Acts 2.

Roah – I'm thankful that all the traditions we keep and the understanding that we have is all about being sensitive to other human beings. It's so simple. People can read the Bible and have something in their heart to respond to that, that they would want to see other human beings with worth and that there would be something in a person to acknowledge that humans are the highest creation. It's like a mystery hidden in there. That's really what our life is all about.

We have a tradition to greet people and to gather together to say good-bye. It's because we love each other and we miss each other when we're away. I'm thankful that that's the simplicity of our life. We want to be sensitive because we affect one another. That's what our Father created us to do.

There have to be people who remember that inside of them in their soul that they know that we are supposed to live like that anyway. If they don't then they won't be able to hear the truth. I'm thankful that's what the spirit of our Master does. It causes us to want to be together and care for one another. There has to be a light in the world. Our Master said, "You are the light in the world." It's love. We have to express our Father's love to the world and that He sent his Son to be an offering in their place. He said that you are the light of the world so that means that He wanted us to be a light because He loves people and wants them to see the truth. He wants them to see the wonderful traditions that we do have. We don't have to dress like the world. We can dress in a way that will make them envious. The basic conscience in them would make it clear that we are right and they are wrong. It will convict them of sin, trying to show off. Sometimes we see these things creeping in here. We have to be on guard. The styles will start changing according to someone's worldly viewpoint and then pretty soon we are just like the world, like the way we see sports or anything. We are supposed to be in a protected environment. Just living here doesn't protect us, but the spirit protects us. We are the protectors of the covenant. We are shepherds who guard over one another. We uphold the traditions that we have.

Shebet – I'm thankful that the traditions that we do have are ones that evolved over a period of time. They are still evolving and are more to come. This is because we didn't set out over twenty years ago saying, "This is the set of precepts we need to live by." By that we would already have our *own* anointing, but it's His anointing that is causing us to be saved. I'm thankful that we are on the upward call.

Our Master said that he who obeys Me, he it is who loves Me, and my Father will love him and I will reveal myself to him. He has to reveal His ways to us and how He wants us to be as a people.

Revelation

If we don't live by revelation then we will start to live by decrees, dogma, and ritual tradition. It's evil to just live by traditions. We would just get bogged down under more and more traditions. Certainly we are vulnerable people. We can go off any time when we stop having revelation. The underground could come up with all their opinions and take over any time when we don't have revelation. Our Master said that the gates of the underground would never prevail if we have revelation. It wasn't flesh and blood that revealed these things but my Father. We are going to continue to live by revelation and endure to bring an end to this evil age. When we are living only in tradition because "we have to," we are not seeing that our Father loves us. The law and the commandments, if seen in the right way, is love.

Bekor – We are a people with traditions. There are so many people who keep traditions but if you ask them why they do they will usually say that because everyone else does or it's always been like that. They don't do it out of revelation. The thing that marks us as a people is not that we just do the things that have been given to us but that we keep those traditions out of revelation and also because we love our

Master Yahshua. The reason we wear the clothes we do is because He wants us to have dignity. If we don't want to do it then it means we don't love our Master and because we don't respect Him enough to realize that He wants to bring us dignity. He set us apart and we were scarred and still are in many ways. There is something lacking in our love if we don't want to do these little things. The reason He wants us to do these things is because He loves us so much and wants our lives to be prolonged. He wants us to be that final generation and if we don't obey Him then we won't be. He wants us to know who we are and take identity in this nation. He poured out His love in our heart so the least we can do is respond to the traditions that He gives to us. Our so-called dignity in the world was enough to take us to the lake of fire so we need some help. We have nothing we can say that we know apart from our Master. I'm thankful that we are going to be people who have tradition but also revelation.

Freedom to Do What is Right

Hahyeh – What we are hearing about traditions shows us what freedom is. We don't have to be in bondage to ourselves, what we want to do with our lives and having an identity crisis. Our Father has given us an identity. He's given us a way to live and we can just be obedient. It's so simple because He will show us the way. There is a false concept of what freedom is. It is that we shouldn't have laws or principles and that we shouldn't say "We *can't* do this or that." This kind of thinking is usually just selfishness and is not being led by the Spirit. Being led by the Spirit is being led by the anointing. Really we need to be led. If we're not led then we will have to find our *own* way. It's freedom to be led by our Master.

In Eph 5:9 it is saying that we are the light in YHWH; walk as children of the light for the fruit of the light is in all **goodness**, righteousness and truth. You have to have traditions here when you start talking about what is **good**. You say, "No, no, no, that is not good! Yes, this is good and that isn't good." How many times have you heard that? "That's not good, walk this way." We have to walk in all goodness, righteousness and truth. And verse 10 says, "...finding out what is acceptable to our Master." Some things are not written down. What should we do if we don't find it in the Bible anywhere?

The Tradition of Volleyball

For example, like playing volleyball is a tradition. We like playing volleyball and it is a good game. What is our traditional serve in volleyball? Do we smash it down so that the other team can never get it back? The big pro gets up there to serve the ball and smashes it down on the other side of the net until they get twenty-one points and then that is the whole game and they say, "Yeah, we won!" The other team members just stood there and watched the big "hot shot" make all their points. But that is not our tradition. Our traditional serve is hitting the ball up so that other people can attempt hitting it back. We let the other side hit it back and then this will be a true "volley." We will have teamwork. It doesn't make sense to do it the other way or we all wouldn't get an opportunity to play. All it would be is one person knocking the ball down our throats making all the points. We "serve" the ball. We don't serve someone by knocking what we are giving him down his or her throat. We would have to change the name if you do that because it's not a *serve*. That's good tradition.

This is just how we do it in the Body because in the world you always see these big slammers. This is part of finding out what pleases Him. If we continued the other way then pretty soon we would be doing all kinds of crazy things. We can't have any fellowship with any fruits of darkness, but expose them. So that's what I did just did here is expose this fruit of darkness.

A tradition makes sense. It's not just rules and regulations that don't make sense. They are always good and show that our Father loves us because He has traditions. Whatever all goodness means is what we will live by.