

The Rationalization of Revealed Religion
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From Mark 7:1-13. THE RATIONALIZATION OF REVEALED RELIGION

#1. The foundation of the Jews' criticism of the Lord and His disciples was the

- "precepts of men" (v.7)
- human "tradition" (v. 9)
- the "tradition of the elders" (v .5.) This means human rationalization of revealed religion. Essentially their reasoning was founded upon the commentaries of the scholars. "The elders" (v. 4,5,) and the "experts" (v. 9) had in fact substituted the ideas of men for mosaic meaning (v. 8.)

#2. Jesus pointed out the problem: man-made, man-created distortion of revealed truth. There are inherent discrepancies between THE WORD OF GOD -- and -- RATIONALIZED RELIGION.

#3. Nobody is permitted to rationalize Scripture truth! Not me, not you, not even the professional scholars have such discretion; and not the preachers, nor the churches. Certainly not the government.

#4. So, on the one hand, there is the language of the Text; and on the other, the rationalized (so-called) "meaning" of the text. They are not the same thing!

#5. This dangerous and unnecessary distortion was foreseen by God from the beginning. "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written" (v. 6)--from Isaiah 29:13). He knew this would eventuate.

#6. How and why? Because some were guilty of "neglecting the commandments of God" (v.8); because some were interested in "setting aside the commandment of God" (v. 9); because some pursued "invalidating the word of God" (v. 13.) In their thinking, Scripture had to be forced to "agree" with human reason.

#7. Question: How much of what we believe is manufactured rationalized precepts of men? Can one tell the difference?

#8. Usually rationalized propositions are easier to believe than Scripture propositions.