

How Good Are YOUR Traditions ?

Contemplating Intimacy with Creator, Sustainer, Saving, Soon-Returning God

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We are such diverse creatures. We are creatures of habit and yet, we are able to step outside of that *mode* and live radically creatively – different than our normal MO – Modus Operandi.

My wife and I have friends who regularly live out their traditions ... faithfully. In special seasons of the year, they gravitate toward one of their regular habits. Are these practices GOOD traditions or are they simply (not so good) knee-jerk actions because *that's what they always do* ? Well, it all depends, doesn't it, on the tradition. If it's a *bad* tradition, then, no, it wouldn't be good if they continued in it. BUT, if it's a *good* tradition, then, YES, absolutely, it's a good habit to be retained, especially when, all things considered – Counsel of God's Word included – it seems right. So what is their *tradition* ?

They always, in loving care for their mom, go to her little place in the care home where she lives and amazingly decorate her room in ways reflecting the current season. This precious care is especially extended during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Their acts of love are amazing; their mom's place looks amazing. Pondering it all, it's amazing. Did I mention: *it's amazing* ?

It's transcendentally amazing how our heavenly Father manifests His love toward us through His Son and His Spirit. He is SO generous in *decorating* our lives. He is SO present as we simply seek His face and as we take new and exciting next steps in walk with Him.

Is this not one expression of INTIMACY with God? Yes, amen, it is, though it's difficult to sufficiently describe through written (or spoken) words. Lord God Most High, THANK YOU for being willing to adopt us into Your glorious family. What grace, what goodness, what amazing love. How can it be, that Thou my God wouldst come to earth as a man and die for me? Father God, thank You for Christmas. Father God, thank You for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday! We PRAISE You. In Jesus Christ's holy, precious name we pray, thanking You, too, for Your Holy Spirit within. Again: You are SO generous to us. Words can't describe Your kindness. LORD, we are grateful.

Segueing ... yet continuing in prayer ... *a prayer to the God of my life* (Psalm 42:8c) ...

Lord, we have some *bad* traditions in our churches today. Help expose the errors of these dangerous beliefs. Lord, tear down the eschatological errors of Pre-Tribulationism. Lord, open our eyes to the deceptions of Preterit perspectives which undermine the Truths of Your Word concerning our days. Lord, lay bare the evils of lukewarm Pan-Mil and Pan-Trib thinking which moves those who embrace the half-truth lies into *harm's-way* traditions | perspectives | mind-sets. Matt. 15 | Mark 7 Amen.

Once again, we encourage you, the reader, to immerse yourselves in God's Word. Look to the Shepherd & Anchor of our souls for contemporary insight second to none. His protective Word continues to work wonders. Psalm 119 Returning to prayerful praise: Glory be, to You alone, oh Most High Triune God.

Consider expressing the following intimate song/prayer (sung to the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*) :

God of glory, God of grace,
Help us Lord, to seek Thy face.
You Who dwell above the earth,
You Who gave us second birth:
God of glory, God of grace,
Help us Lord, to seek Thy face.

God of glory, God of grace,
Oh what beauty in this place. [in fellowship with You]
You Who dwell above the earth,
You Who gave us second birth: [Parents:
God of glory, God of grace, Teach this song
Help me Lord, to seek Thy face. to your little ones!]