

## HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

### Christ and His Law – Part 3

#### Christ and Religious Tradition

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. Today we are continuing a series of studies entitled Christ and His Law. Our topic today: Christ and Religious Tradition

Scripture Theme Song: “You shall love the Lord your God”  
Matthew 22:37-39

- 1) Sitting in the seat of Moses – Matthew 23:1-7
  - a) Pharisees
    - i) Name means “to separate”
    - ii) Established the position of rabbi “my great one” or “my teacher”.
    - iii) Spiritual leaders of their day
  - b) Scribes
    - i) Teachers of the law
    - ii) Many were Pharisees – Acts 23:9
  - c) What was the seat of Moses?
  - d) What concern does Jesus express about the conduct of these religious leaders who sit in Moses’ seat?
  - e) How can we avoid the mistakes they made?
- 2) Human commandments and traditions
  - a) The Scribes and Pharisees trusted in the interpretations of the leading rabbis.
    - i) These rabbinic teachings were first circulated orally, but later assembled into books.
    - ii) Mishnah, end of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (400 years of rabbinic teaching) including Hillel and Shammai.
  - b) Matthew 15:1-6 – An example of following traditions and rabbinic teachings rather than the clear teaching of the Scriptures.
    - i) Where in the Scriptures does it say, “You shall wash your hands before you eat”?
    - ii) Why did the Pharisees only find fault with the disciples of Jesus and not with Jesus Himself?
    - iii) What is the clear teaching of Scripture referred to in Matthew 15:4?
    - iv) Why do the religious leaders allow the Rabbinic teaching to replace the clear teaching of Scripture? Matthew 15:5-6
  - c) While traditions are not automatically bad in themselves, why is it wrong to make a group’s traditions a requirement from God?
  - d) What traditions within your church community have been elevated to something God requires?
  - e) When you live in a community, to what extent should you follow the traditions of that community? 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 5:28-29
- 3) True righteousness
  - a) Matthew 5:17-20
  - b) Some try to create their own standards for righteousness. Romans 10:3
  - c) What righteousness does God require? Matthew 22:35-40
  - d) How is it possible for our righteousness to exceed that of the Pharisees? Eph. 2:8-10; Gal. 2:20-21.