

# *Tradition of Men vs. The Word of God*

*Book by Alvin Jennings*

## *TRADITIONS OF MEN (Denominations)*

*Introduction*

*Catholicism*

*Lutheran*

*Presbyterian*

*Episcopalian*

*Methodist*

*Baptist*

*Church of Christ*

*Seventh Day Adventist*

*Mormonism*

*Jehovah Witness (Russellism)*

*Christian Science*

*Pentecostalism*

*Armstrongism (Worldwide Church of God)*

*The Charismatic Movement*

*Salvation Army*

*Local Church Movement (Nee & Lee)*

*Orthodox (Russian, Eastern, etc.)*

*New Age Movement*

*Islam (Muslim)*

*Nazarene*

## *THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH*

*Its Beginning*

*Its Creed*

*Its Terms of Designation*

*Its Nature*

*Its Organization*

*Its Day of Worship*

*Its Music in Worship*

*Its Terms of Entrance*

# **Review of Tradition of Men vs. The Word of God**

(<http://www.his-church.net/trad.html>)

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Alvin Jennings has been taught the word of God the sacred writings, from a babe. He has been preaching and teaching these "same things committed unto him" (2 Tim 2:2) for almost 50 years. In addition to his studies of the Bible, he has been an avid student of church history. His training includes a BA in Bible from Abilene Christian University and an MA in Church History from Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis.

Mr. Jennings now resides in Ft. Worth, Texas, where he devotes his time principally to writing and publishing. He is married to the former Ellen Kristianson and is the father of five and the grandfather of sixteen children.

## **TRADITIONS**

"Traditions" as used in this book are religious laws and regulations originating in the minds of men and handed down orally and/or in printing from generation to generation. Jesus frequently denounced such traditions and warned disciples that following them makes the word of God "of none effect" (see Matthew 15:2, 3, 6; Mark 7:3, 5, 8, 9, 13; Colossians 2:8; 1 Peter 1:18; Galatians 1:14).

"Paradosis" is a Greek word translated tradition. It is defined as that which is given over or handed down by word of mouth or in writing, and can refer to the substance of teaching from whatever source, including the Divine (2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6; 1 Corinthians 11:2). This is not the sense in which Jesus used the term in his denunciations, nor is it the way in which it will be used in this book.

## **Explanation Concerning Documentation**

Every statement in this book is documented in authentic source books recognized and respected by leaders in each of the religious groups represented. Page numbers will not be the same in some instances due to different printing editions used by the author of this volume, as compared with the editions that may be referred to by the readers.

## **FOREWARD**

This little volume has come as a result of a series of studies presented by the author to a group of mature adults. When a search began to be made for a thoroughly documented source-book that might be used as a textbook, it was discovered there was none available. Although many good books and useful documents proved valuable in the research, there was nothing which fully documented the tenets of the religious groups under consideration. It is hoped that in this volume, both teachers and students who come after will find a reference book that will suffice in conducting a similar investigation anywhere and anytime.

If we know our heart, this undertaking has not been prompted by any motive other than a desire to see truth triumph over error, and to see God's name and way honored and glorified among men who love truth. We have not sought personal triumph in truth, but rather victory for God and His Word. He is convinced that opposition to the traditions of men should not be an occasion for one's vain display of personal talents or mental capacities, nor of his proficiency in logic nor ability to manipulate various passages of Scripture.

The truth of Christ requires no defense. Thus, we do not assail the position of another merely to defend our own. This is not necessary. The more frequently truth clashes with error, the brighter it will shine. The closer the two are brought side by side, the more apparent the difference becomes, and the more brilliant truth's lustre shall glow.

No Christian can maintain a neutral or passive attitude toward false ways. Through knowing God's Word he must conclude with David that he "hates every false way." He opposes error in a militant manner, as fervently as he embraces truth. His thinking must be both positive and negative.

Since the traditional errors originated by men are aggressively advocated by them and their followers, they will not die a natural death nor can we ignore them and expect them to go away. Error ceaselessly seeks to corrupt and neutralize the truth, and to destroy all whom it enmeshes in its tenacles. The great and final reason then for opposing error with truth is to deliver precious souls from its curses and to save them from bondage to freedom, from darkness to eternal light.

We have freely used quotations from many writers, to whom we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness. We have done this deliberately, that the principal authorities and spokesmen of the various religious denominations might be allowed to "speak for themselves." No room has been left for doubting what they believe and teach.

Our aim has been always to "speak the truth in love," although we have realized that with the two-edged sword of the Spirit, we were piercing fiercely and fatally the untrue doctrines and commandments of men. We have not attacked men personally, for our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principles and powers of wickedness (Ephesians 6). Thus we commit our efforts to their mission with the sincere prayer that God shall be honored, and that precious souls will be constrained to turn to the Lord and to "the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

## **PREFACE**

### ***It Does Make a Difference What Man Believes and How Man Worships God***

The earliest clash between man's idea and God's word in choosing a form of worship is recorded in Genesis 4:2-8. Later, Jude referred to "the way of Cain" (vs. 11) and the apostle John spoke of Cain's wickedness who slew his brother "because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (1 John 3:12). God, in observing Cain's anger and unhappy countenance after he offered the faithless sacrifice, said, "if thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door" (Genesis 4:7). Cain sinned by transgressing God's law (1 John 3:4), by substituting his own way of worship for God's way. Those who follow in the way of Cain have not learned that God's ways and thoughts are not the same as man's (Isaiah 55:8-9), and that to worship by a form that is pleasing to man will be followed by disastrous consequences. Those who are determined to worship God according to His holy Word will be honored and rewarded like Abel of whom it is said, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain . . ." (Hebrews 11:4). His faith came by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17).

Through the centuries we see man standing with the two ways before him. God's way on the one hand, perhaps appearing narrow and difficult with only a few following. On the other hand, there is the popular way, the broad way, the way that seems right to men, but it is the way of death (Jer. 10:23, Prov. 14:12). God's spokesmen are ever calling for men to "stand in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6.16).

# **OTHER RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR REFERENCE**

## ***Denominational or Religion Books***

3,913 Changes in the Book of Mormon - by Jerald & Sandra Tanner  
A Baptist Association - by J. C. Bradley - *Paperback*  
A Critical Review of a New Modernism - by W. Carl Ketcherside  
Answers To The Cultist At Your Door - by Robert & Gretchen Passantino  
Are The Mormon Scriptures Reliable? - by Harry L. Ropp - *Paperback*  
Baptist Answers Reviewed - by C.R. Nichol - *Paperback*  
Captives of the Word - by Louis and Bessie White Cochran - *Hardback*  
Charismatic Chaos - by John F. MacArthur - *Paperback*  
Catechism of the Catholic Church (Complete & Updated) - *Paperback*  
Common Sense Religion - by Brandon Renfroe - *Paperback*  
Denominational Doctrines (Vol. 1-2) J. Curtis Manor - *Hardback*  
Handbook of Denominations - by Frank S. Mead - *Hardback*  
Institutes of the Christian Religion - by John Calvin - *Paperback*  
National Sunday Law - by A. Jan Marcussen - *Paperback* (2 copies)  
Major Problems of Mormonism - by Jerald & Sandra Tanner  
Major Religious Beliefs - by John David Stewart - *Paperback*  
Modern Churches and The Church - by J. Porter Wilhite - *Hardback*  
Out On A Broken Limb - by F. LaGard Smith - *Paperback*  
Religions in a Changing World - by Howard F. Vos - *Hardback*  
Sects of the Latter-day Saints - by Gordon H. Fraser - *Paperback*  
Seven Theories of Religion - by Daniel L. Pals - *Hardback*  
Shelly-Moore Debate - pub. by Lambert Book House - *Paperback*  
Studies in Denominational Doctrine (Vol 2) - by Owen D. Olbricht  
The Hijacking of the Christian Church - Brother Anonymous  
The Kingdom of the Cults - by Walter Martin - *Hardback*  
The Quran Unveiled - by Dave Miller - *Paperback*  
The Story of Gandhi - by Taya Zinkin - *Hardback*  
The Truth About Mormonism - by Weldon Langfield - *Paperback*  
The Ways of Religion - edited by Roger Eastman - *Paperback*  
What's The Difference in Protestant and Catholic? - by Arthur G. Reynolds

## ***Ecclesiology or Church Related Materials***

Back To The Basics - by Willard Conchin - *Paperback*  
Baptism: A Response of Faith - by Owen Olbricht - *Paperback*  
Behold the Pattern - by Goebel Music - *Hardback*  
Church History - by John D. Cox - *Hardback*  
Churches of Christ in the United States - by Mac Lynn - *Paperback*  
Churches of Today - by L. G. Tomlinson - *Hardback*  
Christ and the Church - by Edward C. Wharton - *Hardback*  
Contending For The Faith - by G.C. Brewer - *Hardback*  
First Principles - by Gary and Marylyn Underwood - *Paperback*  
I Just Want To Be A Christian - by Rubel Shelly - *Hardback*  
Into the Abundant Life - by Truth for Today - *Paperback*  
Introducing the Church of Christ - pub. by Star Bible - *Paperback*  
Sacred Principles on Which We Stand - John Waddey - *Paperback*  
Scriptural Organization of Churches of Christ - by Jim Massey  
Studies on the Church - by Ray Cooper - *Paperback*  
The Church, the Falling Away, and the Restoration - by J.W. Shepherd  
The Church of the Bible - by J.C. Choate - *Paperback*  
The Church of Christ - by Thomas W. Phillips - *Paperback*  
The New Testament Church - by F.B. Srygley - *Hardback*  
Traditions of Men Versus The Word of God - by Alvin Jennings  
What Is Christianity - by Steve Williams - *Paperback*  
Who Is My Brother? - by F. LaGard Smith - *Paperback*  
Who Is On The Lord's Side - by Willard Conchin - *Paperback*  
Why I Left - by Campbell and Caskey - *Hardback*  
Why I Am A Member of the Church of Christ - by Leroy Brownlow

## ***Church History Books***

Backgrounds of Early Christianity (2nd ed) - by Everett Ferguson  
Christianity Through The Centuries - by Earle E. Cairns - *Hardback*  
Chronological & Background Charts of the Bible - by Robert C. Walton  
Discovering Our Roots - by Allen & Hughes - *Paperback*  
Evangelicalism & The Stone-Campbell Movement - by William R. Baker  
Foxes Book of Martyrs - by John Foxe - *Hardback*  
The Church of Christ - by Everett Ferguson - *Paperback*  
The Living Oracles - by Alexander Campbell - *Hardback*  
The New Testament Background - C.K. Barrett - *Paperback*  
The Search for the Ancient Order (vol.1-4) - by Earl Ervin West  
The Story of Restoration - by Bill Humble - *Paperback*  
The Trials of the Ancient Order - by Earl Ervin West - *Hardback*  
Theological and Aesthetic Roots in the Stone-Campbell Movement - Jorgen

## ***Maturity, Mentoring, or New Converts Books***

A Spiritual Family in an Unspiritual World - by Mac Lyon - *Paperback*  
All I Ever Needed To Know I Learned on the Farm - by Tom Holland  
Back To The Basics - by Jerry Jones - *Paperback*  
Becoming A Faithful Christian - Truth For Today - *Paperback*  
Behold & Become - by Jerry Jones - *Paperback*  
Christian Living Is For Real - by Tim Walker - *Paperback*  
Daily Living With Christ - by Willard Collins - *Paperback*  
Following Up New Converts - by B.C. Carr - *Paperback*  
Its Not The Same Old Me - by Nils Donnell - *Paperback*  
Mentoring Millennials - Dr. Daniel Egeler - *Paperback*  
Mentoring At Work - Kathy E. Kram - *Paperback*  
Now What? - by Ralph W. Harris - *Paperback*  
Some Do's And Don'ts For The Christian - by Leroy Brownlow  
Strategies in Christian Growth - by Bill Dillon - *Paperback*  
Study on First Principles - by John L. Kachelman - *Paperback*  
The Divine Mentor - Wayne Cordeiro - *Paperback*  
The Fine Art of Mentoring - Ted W. Engstrom - *Paperback*  
The Heart of Mentoring - David A. Stoddard - *Paperback*  
The New You - by Harold Myra - *Paperback*  
The Pursuit of Holiness - by Jerry Bridges - *Paperback*

## ***Books on Worship or The Acts of Worship***

A Study of Prayer - by James Meadows - *Paperback*  
Around The Lord's Table - by A.B. Lipscomb - *Paperback*  
Church Music - by Coy D. Roper - *Paperback*  
Leading in Worship - by Dempsey and Phillips - *Paperback*  
Lord, Teach Us To Pray - by Ancil Jenkins - *Paperback*  
Prayer - by James M. Tolle - *Paperback*  
Prayer: The Voice of Faith - by Charles B. Hodge - *Paperback*  
Rejoice: Sing To The Lord - by Sweet Publishing - *Paperback*  
Sermons From Songs - by John Stacy - *Paperback*  
Singing With the Understanding - by Kenneth E. Cosby - *Paperback*  
Stewardship in the Life of Women - by Helen Kingsbury Wallace  
The Complete Idiots Guide To Prayer - by Galli & Bell - *Paperback*  
The Disciples' Prayer - by Hugo McCord - *Hardback*  
The Instrumental Music Issue - by Ferguson, Lewis, and West  
The Lord's Supper, Prayers, Thanksgivings - by C.R. Nichol - *Hardback*  
The Prayer-Driven Church - by Ray Fulenwider - *Paperback*  
The Prayer of Jabez - by Bruce Wilkerson - *Hardback*  
This Grace Also - by Mac Layton - *Hardback*  
Thou Shalt Worship The Lord Thy God - by Andy T. Richie Jr.  
Where Is The Piano - by Dan Chambers - *Paperback*  
Worship: Meaning & Manifestation - by Tom H. Holland - *Paperb*