

# Worshipping God in Vain

Mark 7:1-13

## Introduction:

- A. It is not enough to just worship the one true God.
  - 1. He must be worshiped in truth and spirit (John 4:24)
  - 2. He may be worshiped in vain (v. 7)
    - a. By what is offered. (v. 7, 13)
    - b. By how it is offered (v. 6).
- B. Pharisees illustrated three ways that we can make our worship vain.

## Discussion:

### **I. By Turning Common Practices into Religious Practices (vv. 1-5).**

- A. Important to distinguish between holy and profane/common (Ezek. 44:23)
- B. Washing was morally right, but religiously wrong.
- C. Religious people today turn many common practices into religious practices.
  - 1. By turning common activities into worship activities.
    - a. Hamburger and coke good, but not on Lord's table (Mt. 26:29).
    - b. Instrumental music good, but not as religious music (Eph. 5:19).
  - 2. By turning common works into church work.
    - a. Bake sales, car washes, etc. good, but not for church finance (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
    - b. Common meals good, not as church function (1 Cor. 11:22, 34).
    - c. Recreational programs good for family, school, etc., not as church work (Eph. 4:12).
    - d. General benevolence programs, not for church (1 Tim. 5:16).

### **II. By Reducing Religious Service to Mere Lip Service (v. 6)**

- A. One thing to mouth our worship — another to worship from heart (cf. John 4:24).
- B. One thing to talk about faith and love — another to prove it (Jas. 2:14-18).
- C. One thing to say, "I am of Christ" — another to truly be of Christ.

### **III. By Using One Duty to Offset Another Duty (vv. 9-13)**

- A. Giving to God did not relieve their duty to parents — nor vice versa.
- B. There is room to meet all our responsibilities (Mark 12:14-17)
- C. "Church" activities do not relieve us of "individual" responsibilities — nor vice versa.

## Conclusion:

- A. Let us make a difference between the holy and profane.
- B. Let us do more than give lip service to our faith.
- C. Let us meet all our responsibilities.
- D. Let us obey God - not human tradition.