

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

2 Timothy 2:1-2
**Do You Follow
the Traditions of Men or God?**
by Eric Douma
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Three Imperatives

2 Tim. 2:1 Be strong
2 Tim. 2:2 Entrust
2 Tim. 2:3 Suffer hardship

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Christ's Grace Is Needed

2 Timothy 2:1
You therefore, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:7
For God has not given us a **spirit** of timidity, but of **power** and love and discipline.

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Paul Entrusts Timothy With Gospel

2 Timothy 2:2
The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 1:13
Retain the standard of sound words **which you have heard from me**, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

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Applications

1. Believers must understand the unique nature of the apostolic office and its relationship to other gifts believers have today.
2. Believers must be able to distinguish between traditions of men and the "traditions" of the apostles.

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The Unique Apostolic Message

Many people claim today that there are modern apostles who give new revelation.

Jude 3
Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was **once for all handed down to the saints.**

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Christ and His Apostles

Hebrews 3:1

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the **Apostle** and High Priest of our confession...

John 13:20

Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who receives whomever I send** receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

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Traditions of Men or of God?

Catholic View: Church tradition **determined** the canon of Scripture.

Protestant View: Church tradition **recognized** the canon of Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, **21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will**, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke **from God.**

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Traditions of Men or of God?

Catholic: Purgatory is true because **tradition** tells me it's true.

Protestant: Purgatory is false because **Scripture** tells me it's false.

Mark 7:13

... **thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition** which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.

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Traditions of Men or of God?

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, **according to the tradition of men**, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

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Traditions of Men or of God?

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to **the tradition which you received from us.**

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