



# Apostolic Notes

An Ezine of apostolic thought by Apostolic Missions Inc

Volume 1, Number 7 [Maschmaltz@juno.com](mailto:Maschmaltz@juno.com) or [www.apostolicmissions.org](http://www.apostolicmissions.org) August 17, 2007



Martin Schmaltz, D.C.

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## HOW TRADITIONAL ARE WE? (Part 1)

In an earlier issue of *Apostolic Notes*, (Vol 1 No 5), we presented the definition of tradition. To summarize, it is the act of giving over, giving up or surrender. It has the same etymology as the word treason. Jesus said, *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men,"* (Mark 7:7-8). Jesus declares the results of these traditions in verse 13, *"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition."* According to Thayer's *"Making of none effect"* is one word meaning *"deprive of force and authority."*

Man's traditions affect our faith by creating predetermined paradigms that hinder our ability to walk in apostolic authority. A paradigm is: *"A set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them."* *American Heritage Dictionary (Dictionary.com)*. These traditional paradigms create a filter we view the Lord, His purpose and our spiritual lives through.

During my time of practice, occasionally, there would be a patient who would come in exasperated or frustrated and say, "Just do something." I would explain that to help them, we needed to undergo a diagnostic process to determine WHAT the true SOURCE of their problem was. In the church today, many pastors and leaders are like these patients. They know something is wrong and they are frustrated. They look to do something, by grasping the latest church growth program, big name evangelist or that one special conference. I know, I have been there. It is my desire to help us walk in apostolic authority. This *Apostolic Notes* and the next one, are a diagnostic process to assist us in determining WHAT the true source of our problem could be.

A review of the modern church reveals some of the developed characteristics of man's traditions. Along with these traditions I have also given food for thought about an apostolic approach.

### A traditional church is a church that....

#### *...preaches a "bless me" gospel*

This gospel and its message is an attempt to alleviate man's discomfort and pain. The Bible is seen as a cookbook with recipes to fix our current problem. This is a "self" focused gospel.

#### *...has as its predominant goal for each individual, salvation or heaven*

The traditional church view is a "saved" or "lost," "heaven" or "hell" mindset. Once saved, it is to stay saved, producing a life of fear. Our decisions are made based on how it could affect my eternity.

### The apostolic church is a church that...

#### *...preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven*

Jesus' first message and that of the disciples was the gospel of the kingdom of heaven (Matt 4:17, 4:23, 9:35; Lk 9:60, 10:9). We are to be ambassadors of this kingdom. Our blessings are a by-product of obedience to His purpose.

#### *...has for it's main goal the transformation into the image of Jesus Christ*

We must be concerned about our eternal future. However, the ultimate goal is the image of Jesus (Col 3:10, Rom 8:29, 1 Cor 15:49). The choices in my life are not based on "heaven" or "Hell," but does it please Him and make me more like Him.

To be continued ....

Till next time -  
Martin

\*DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this article is the individual author's opinion's and beliefs and do not necessarily represent Apostolic Missions or any other minister, local church, or any organization. They are intended for information and food for further thought.

215 Ambleside Dr - Leesburg GA 31763 - [www.apostolicmissions.org](http://www.apostolicmissions.org)