Sermon Notes
ETP - 2Pet 1:1-3
October 5, 2025

I. Introduction

Tradition is a theological teaching distinct from scripture, and it is infallible. It is to be received with the same assent as scripture, for it is the word of God. Tradition is superior to scripture. Scripture is incomplete. Scripture is a dead word which is brought to life by tradition. Religious Catechism

a. really want to hit my head on the wall again... talk about etp a lot... what is it... not early pregnancy test... but experience, tradition, and preference... can be dangerous...
Jonah 1-4... *"I knew You would do this... merciful, filled with love... eager to not destroy..."*
Matt 13:53-58... "*where did he get his power, isn't this carpenter's son*... they were offended..."
Mark 2:1-12... "paralyzed... *stand up, go home... we've never seen anything like this*..."
Mark 7:1-13... "you *deprive* the Word of *force and authority* thru your tradition..."
Mark 9:14-29... "*disciples couldn't heal my son... if you can do anything, help us*..."
John 5:1-9... "disabled for 38 years... Jesus asked, *do you want to get well*..."

b. many Christians are confused... hear God is source of their sickness... or He wants them to stay sick to draw closer to Him... strengthen their faith... teach them something...
Matt 9:35... "Jesus went to all towns... preaching Good News... healing every sickness..."
Mark 3:22-26... "if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand..."
Luke 4:30... "all those who were sick were brought to Him... He healed every one..."
John 5:19... "Son only does what He sees the Father doing... whatever Dad does, Son also does..."
Rom 10:14-17... "faith comes from hearing... hearing message about Jesus..."
Heb 1:3... "the Son is the exact representation of the Father..."

c. don't let etp guide your life... don't make decisions based on emotions or feelings... true life only comes thru God's word, not etp... let Word determine your etp... pray...
Matt 4:4... "man shall not live by bread alone... but by every Word from God..."
John 8:31-32... "continue in My word... then you will know truth... truth set you free..."
Eph 4:18... "excluded from life of God... by ignorance and a hard heart..."
2Pet 1... "grace, peace, everything required for life... thru *precise and correct* knowledge of God..."

II. ETP

a. many religious traditions teach us to embrace suffering and pain... *if we don't believe our cancer is designed by God, we will waste it, diseases are not a curse*... you'll have pain and suffering on this earth... but it is not designed by God, nor His will for you...
Psa 103:1-3... "do not forget His benefits... He forgives all sin... He heals all diseases..."
Isa 53:3-5... "He bore our sicknesses... He carried our pains... healed by His wounds..."
John 16:33... "in this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties..."
Rom 5:1-5... "we boast in the hope of the *goodness* of God... not only that, we also boast in our problems and trials... they help develop endurance, character, hope... which does not disappoint..."
Jam 1:2-4... "consider it great joy when you experience trials... to be mature, lacking nothing..."
1Pet 1:5-9... "rejoice... suffer many trials... so genuine faith may result in praise, glory, honor..."

b. gotta be careful what you're hearing and who you're hearing it from...
Prov 4:20-23... "pay attention... listen... my words bring life and health..."
Mark 4:24... "be careful what you are hearing... measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you... and even more..."

c. one piece of etp that confuses us is Paul's thorn in the flesh... most people believe God gave him some sickness or disease... then refused to take it away even when Paul asked...
2Cor 12:7-8... "thorn in the flesh was given to me... pleaded with God to take it away..."

d. set aside etp and dig a little deeper... look at context of whole passage... very clear satan was source of torment, not God... why... because Paul had amazing discovery of truth... and contrary to etp... God told him exactly how to overcome the thorn... thru His grace...
2Cor 12:6-10... "because of extraordinary revelations... a thorn in the flesh was given to me... a messenger of satan to torment me so I would not exalt myself... pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave... *My grace is enough, My power perfected in weakness*... gladly boast about weakness..."

e. what exactly was the thorn... people... satan put people in Paul's path to try and stop him from preaching good news... when you get revelation... same thorn will affect you today...
Num 33:55... "inhabitants of the land... those you allow to remain will become thorns..."
Josh 23:13... "these nations... they will become thorns for you..."
Judg 2:3... "I will not drive out these people... they will be thorns in your side..."
Acts 16:16-24... "seized Paul... *these men are disturbing our city*... crowd attacked..."
Acts 19:21-41... "*Paul has misled people*... filled people with rage... confusion and riot..."
Acts 24:1-9... "*we have found this man to be a plague*... and the Jews joined the attack..."
Heb 10:32-39... "after you had been enlightened... endured hard struggle with suffering... exposed to taunts and afflictions... don't throw away confidence, which has great reward... need endurance..."

f. another piece of etp that can be confusing is trials, tests, and temptations in James... often assume that God is the one bringing these difficulties... but it never says that...
Jam 1:2-3... "when you experience trials... testing of your faith produces endurance..."
Jam 1:13... "God never inflicts evil to prove our quality or faith by doing something destructive.."

g. in English... trials, tests, temptations look separate... in Greek, it's one root word... so no matter what you call them... God is never the source of trials, tests, or temptations...
James 1:2-15... "when you fall into trials... know testing of faith produces patience... blessed is man who endures tests and temptations... let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God... God cannot be tempted by evil... nor does He tempt anyone... tempted by our own desires..."
peirasmos (n) / **peirazo** (v)... *the act of trials, tests, and temptations*...
GSV... "when you face *trials, tests, temptations*... you know the *testing, trying, tempting* of your faith produces perseverance... blessed is one who perseveres under *trial, test, or temptation*... having stood the *trial, test, temptation*... when *tried, tested, tempted* no one should say, God is *trying, testing, tempting* me... God cannot be *tried, tested, tempted* by evil... nor does He *try, test, or tempt* anyone... but each person is *tried, tested, tempted* when he is drawn away by his own evil desires..."

h. incorrect theology is everywhere... shown you quotes from books, TV, preaching... but did you know Christian music can sometimes be far worse... is that what you believe...
Mark 7:6-13... "they worship Me in vain... teaching as doctrine the commands of men..."
Rom 2:4... "do you despise His goodness and patience... God's kindness leads you to repentance..."

i. lack of precise and correct knowledge about God has made us powerless... etp is difficult to remove, but not impossible... can only be removed with Truth... pray...
Psa 25:5... "guide me in Your truth... teach me... my hope is in You..."
Psa 86:11... "teach me Your way that I may walk in truth... give me an undivided mind..."
Psa 119:10-11... "I have sought You with all my heart... treasured Word in my heart..."
Psa 138:2... "give thanks for truth... You have magnified Your Word above Your name..."
Isa 55:11... "My word will not return empty... it will prosper in what I send it to do..."
Jer 23:29... "speak My word truthfully... is it not like fire... like a hammer that pulverizes rock..."
Matt 4:1-11... "*it is written... it is written... it is written... go away, satan*... devil left..."
2Cor 6:7... "by the word of truth... power of God... thru weapons of righteousness..."
1Thess 2:13... "constantly thank God... Word works effectively in those who believe..."
2Tim 3:14-17... "continue in what you learned and believed... correctly teaching truth..."
Heb 4:12... "Word of God is living and effective... sharper than two-edged sword... exposes heart..."