



“The Purpose of the Bible”

Mark 7:1-13 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
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Introduction –In Mark chapter 7, the Scribes and Pharisees confront Jesus about how they were violating the Jewish “purity laws.” Jesus takes the opportunity to affirm the absolute authority and divine purpose of Scripture.

I. Adjust to the Bible’s Authority. (Review)

- A. The authority of the Bible is the major issue in this passage.
- B. The Scribes and Pharisees are technically not citing the Scripture in their complaint, but “the tradition of the elders.”
- C. Jesus quotes Isaiah 29 which suggests that if we fail to honor the unique authority of the Bible in our life, we fail to really worship God.
- D. We must adjust our life to the authority of the Bible AND, understand the purpose of the Bible.

II. Understand the Bible’s Purpose.

- A. What did God intend for the Bible – rules or relationship?
- B. Jesus’ answer tells us in His quote of Isaiah 29:13.

- C. The purpose of the Bible is not conformity to laws, but a relationship with God.
- D. Jesus reinforced that point in other teachings. (Matthew 22:35-40)
- E. Note the Gospel paradigm in Exodus 19-20.
- F. Putting the concept of “rules” with “relationship” is not easy for us, but we do live by it.

III. See the Bible’s Central Core.

- A. After His resurrection, Jesus emphatically told His disciples about how important it is to have a right understanding of the Bible!
- B. The central core of the Bible is Jesus.
 - 1. The story of Joseph.
 - 2. The story of Esther.
- C. Our understanding of the Bible will be incomplete, unless we learn and delight in this secret.

Conclusion