



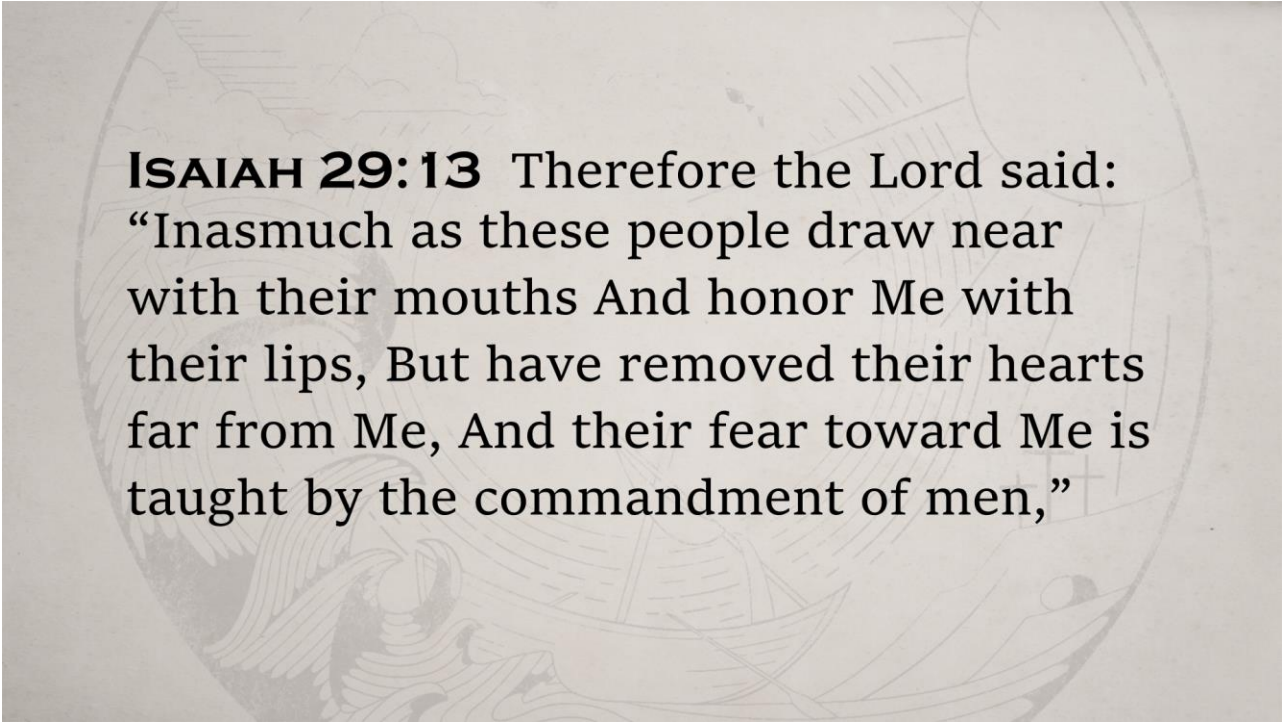
**MARK: GOSPEL TRUTH
FOR A GROWING CHAOS**

THE PROBLEM OF VAIN WORSHIP

MARK 7:7 “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:⁸“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.⁹And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.””

ISAIAH 1:11 “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.¹²When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?¹³Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.¹⁴Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.”

MALACHI 1:11 “For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.¹²“But you profane it, In that you say, ‘The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.’¹³You also say, ‘**Oh, what a weariness!**’ **And you sneer at it,**” Says the LORD of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the LORD.



ISAIAH 29:13 Therefore the Lord said:
“Inasmuch as these people draw near
with their mouths And honor Me with
their lips, But have removed their hearts
far from Me, And their fear toward Me is
taught by the commandment of men,”

WHEN WORSHIP IS INSINCERE

MARK 7:7 “Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:⁸“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And **honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.**””

WHEN WORSHIP IS INSINCERE

1 SAMUEL 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for **man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”

WHEN WORSHIP IS INSINCERE

REVELATION 2:2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love.**”

WHEN WORSHIP IS INSINCERE

ISAIAH 1:3 “The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s feeding-trough, but Israel does not know; My people do not understand.”⁴Oh—sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, brood of evildoers, depraved children! They have abandoned the LORD; they have despised the Holy One of Israel; they have turned their backs on Him.

WHEN TRADITION REPLACES TRUTH

MARK 7:8 “For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”⁹He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

WHEN TRADITION REPLACES TRUTH

MARK 7:10 “For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’” “But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban”—’ (that is, a gift to God),¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother,¹³ making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

WHEN TRADITION REPLACES TRUTH

1 TIMOTHY 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

MARK 7:3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.⁴ And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And **many other things there be**, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.