

Mark 7:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders.

Analysis

Mark 7:3 This passage continues Mark's fast-paced narrative demonstrating Jesus' divine authority, miraculous power, and confrontation with religious establishment. The theological themes include Christ's deity, sacrificial mission, call to discipleship, and inauguration of God's kingdom. Reformed interpretation emphasizes sovereign grace, substitutionary atonement, and transformation through regeneration.

Historical Context

First-century Palestinian Jewish context under Roman occupation shapes the narrative. Archaeological discoveries confirm Gospel accounts' historical accuracy. Ancient sources (Josephus, Tacitus) corroborate biblical timeline and cultural details. Early church fathers interpreted these Christologically, seeing Old Testament fulfillment and New Covenant establishment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse reveal Christ's person and work in redemptive history?
2. What transformation should this truth produce in your thinking, affections, and behavior?

Interlinear Text

οἱ γὰρ Φαρισαῖοι καὶ πάντες οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐὰν μὴ^{G3588}
For the Pharisees and all ^{G3956} the Jews ^{G1437} ^{G3361}

πυγμῇ νίψωνται τὰς χεῖρας οὐκ ἐσθίουσιν κρατοῦντες^{G4435}
oft they wash ^{G3588} their hands ^{G5495} not ^{G3756} eat ^{G2068} holding ^{G2902}

τὴν παράδοσιν τῶν πρεσβυτέρων^{G3862}
the tradition ^{G3588} of the elders ^{G4245}

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 1:14 (Parallel theme): And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

Mark 7:13 (Parallel theme): Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Colossians 2:8 (Parallel theme): Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.