

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	G3588	the Jews	G1437	G3361
	G1063	G5330	G2532	G3956		G2453		
πυγμῇ	νίψωνται	τὰς	χεῖρας	οὐκ	ἐσθίουσιν	κρατοῦντες		
oft	they wash	G3588	their hands	not	eat	holding		
G4435	G3538		G5495	G3756	G2068	G2902		
τὴν	παράδοσιν	τῶν	πρεσβυτέρων					
G3588	the tradition	G3588	of the elders					
	G3862		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.