**How We Got to WHO We Are \***

**Passing on The (Our) Tradition**

**Lesson Twelve**

1. Observe Jesus’ modeling (Matt. 11:28-30)

 Traditionalism of the Pharisees

 Six steps leading to traditionalism: (Scot McKnight, Blue Parakeet)

 1. We read the Bible.

 2. We confront a current issue and make a decision.

 3. We fossilize our decision and it becomes a tradition.

 4. We are bound to our tradition forever.

 5. We read the Bible through our tradition. 6. Those who question our tradition are suspect or kicked out of the church.

2. Simplicity of the early faith

 The Ethiopian of Acts 8

 “Rule of Faith” by Irenaeus

 “Apostles’ Creed”

3. Validity of the Restoration Plea (Everett Ferguson)

 A. It is reasonable to let what was taught at the beginning of Christianity be the standard for what Christianity is.

 B. It has a theological basis in Christianity as a revealed religion.

 C. It has a historical justification as a recurring emphasis in Christian history.

 D. It corresponds to contemporary interest in the Bible, and that interest is still present.

 E. It is practical. Individuals and groups have come to similar conclusions as ours simply from studying their Bibles.

 F. It occupies ecumenical ground as “common Christianity.”

4. Use insights gained from our own history (Foster & Holloway, 2/2002)

 A. Hold to our heritage of "Christians only and not the only Christians"

 B. Refuse to allow issues to cause unbrotherly conduct and language

 C. Refuse to act as if assent to a list of doctrines is the essence of Christianity

5. Teach the “meaning” of traditions and not just their “form.”

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I. Insights from others

 A. Scot McKnight

 B. Ted Campbell

II. The future of God’s church does not rest on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\*by Dean Bryce 11/30/2016