I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Haiti Fundraiser: Christian Audio. A portion of proceeds will go to Teachers Conf.
   B. Slide#3 Children at Risk: 3pm, New Rm. 45min DVD on Human Trafficking in San Bernardino.
      1. S.B. District Attorney’s office put together, esp dealing w/Teenage Sex for Sale.
      2. Did you know they have the Players Ball? It’s an annual gathering/awards of pimps.
         a) Just held the 38th annual on Dec 8, 2012 at the Key Club, Hollywood, Ca.
      3. Also filling dignity bags for Operation Safehouse.

II. Slide#4 Intro:
   A. Story: So I was placed on a case this week for jury duty. The D.A. questioned me. “Mr. Bell, being a religious man, it says somewhere in the Scriptures, I don’t know where, but it says that there must be 2 witnesses to convict, but if we have 1 & its a sure thing, would you have a problem w/that?” I said no. He turned & walked away. I still had the mic. I said “would you like me to explain the Mosaic Law, & what Moses meant by that in Deuteronomy?” We all laughed. He said, “maybe afterward Mr.Bell.” I said, “well you asked a preacher!”
   1. This was found in the bible, but often people quote things from the bible, when that isn't its source. People often think Cleanliness is next to Godliness is in Scripture. It’s not. And I think I found a place that says the opposite, so I chose for my Title: Cleanliness is next to Godlessness.

   B. Slide#5 Illustration: Once when I was in Sophia, Bulgaria I found a wonderful deal on an antique pocket watch. It looked old/rustic/cool…but, it only ran for a few days…if that!
      1. No matter how often I wound it or how many times I changed the hands…it just didn’t help. [it did have correct time twice a day!]
      2. The most important thing about a watch is to tell time. So, what I learned that day, when it comes to watches...what’s most important is...what is inside! * Slide#6 *
         a) This morning, Jesus challenges the religious leaders with what’s most important. Inside or outside? - Mouth or heart? - Washing hands or washing hearts?
      3. Keep in the back of your minds a few questions: What is holiness any ways? Does Jesus ever ditch church, & if so when?

   C. Slide#7 Outline: The Delegation; The Degradation; The Defilement.

III. Slide#8 THE DELEGATION (1-5) Pharisees & Scribes from Jerusalem
   A. (1) A delegation of religious leaders from Jerusalem travel about 100 miles to check Jesus out.
      1. Jesus ministry is front page news & has reached all the way down to Jerusalem.
2. These men didn’t come to see if Jesus was the Messiah…but instead to find “a fly in the ointment”…& to this end, they were masters.
   a) Slide#9 They could be straining their water & find the smallest gnat, but somehow miss the camel.
   b) They were majoring on minors, straining out a gnat, while minoring on majors, swallowing a camel. And being so busy with small details, they never dealt with the important matters. (Lev.11:4,23 both were forbidden as food)

B. This was not a matter of personal hygiene but of religious ritual.
   1. They ate w/their hands so of course they’d wash up before a meal, but this was dealing with their prescribed ceremonial washing!

C. (3) In a special way – literally means w/the fist. (Exact meaning unknown) Some think up to the elbow. (Like a doctor, nurse, surgeon scrubs in/up)

D. Slide#10 Traditions of the elders – The Mishna at the end of the 2nd century said, “Tradition is the fence around the law.”
   1. I think the Law needed protecting about as much as a lion in a field needs protection around him.

E. During the late 2nd century AD, these oral teachings (traditions) were written down in what was called the Mishnah (a book w/6 divisions: agriculture, festivals, marriage, civil life, crime, & ceremonies)
   1. To this was added a commentary called the Gemara.
   2. Together the Mishnah & the Gemara formed the Talmud.
   3. These contained 248 commandments (thou shalt’s); & 365 prohibitions (thou shalt not’s)
   4. As one Rabbi put it, “The Scriptures are water, the Mishnah is wine; the Gemara spiced wine.”

F. The Jewish Mishnah contained no less than 30 ch.’s on the cleansing of vessels.
   1. This Hand washing ritual came from the command for priests to wash their hands (Ex.30:19; 40:12). It was a reminder to come to God clean (i.e. w/clean hearts)
   2. All pious Jews started doing this about 200 yrs before Christ.
   3. So, by Jesus day, it was firmly entrenched as a requirement for those who wanted to be clean.
      a) They completely lost the original idea of clean hearts.

IV. Slide#11 THE DEGRADATION (6-13) When Lips supersede Heart
   A. (6) Honor w/lips, but not heart – Jesus says, I’ll tell you why My disciples don’t keep your traditions – Look what Isaiah said would happen when tradition takes the place of truth.

1 David Hewitt, Mark, pg.106.
1. There is a big difference between tradition & truth.
   a) Tradition is outward; Truth is inward.
      Tradition has to do w/ritual; Truth has to do w/reality.
      Tradition is something you keep; Truth is something that keeps you.

2. What a tragedy that religious people would ignorantly practice their religion & become worse for doing it!
   a) Jesus doesn’t say, “well as long as you’re sincere!”

B. (6b) Heart is far from me – You can’t think your way into the kingdom of God.
   1. Slide#12,13 “Christianity is a rational faith, a reasonable faith, but you do not get into the kingdom head 1st. You get into the kingdom heart 1st.”

C. (7) Hypocrites – You folks have turned religion into play-acting.
   1. We are hypocritical when we talk about love but never love;
      Talk about forgiving but never forgive;
      Talk about witnessing but never witness.

D. I believe there are a great # of services that Jesus Christ would never attend.
   1. Worship Music - some would think of Him not attending because of “style, the volume, or lack of hymns”. - I’m thinking, no, more like when a bunch of folks that have gotten together and are “singing” because, “that’s what we do every week.” I think Jesus dismisses Himself. Do you think He sticks around to be polite? “You honor Me with singing on the outside, but you plan out your week on the inside.”
      a) Do you think He sticks around for your worship if in fact you hold unconfessed sin & bitterness inside?

2. How about Sermons? What if the sermon is a mini self-help seminar on becoming a better you? That’s moralism & its not helpful. - Any gospel which says only what you must do & never announce what Christ has done...is no gospel at all!

E. (11) But you say… – 
   1. Illustration: You’ve seen many moms place a very thin blanket over their babies in their strollers (keep the sun off). But what would happen if they just kept placing blanket after blanket. It doesn’t matter how thin these blankets are…the baby would suffocate.
      a) Over the years the Pharisees had overlaid the biblical teaching w/vast amounts of spoken teaching blankets & oral tradition blankets.
      b) Though admirable, the original aim of protecting the baby, became its demise.

F. (10-13) Now Jesus gives an illustration of the point He just made.

2 Jerry Vines, pg.130.
1. First Jesus quoted from Isaiah & now He’ll pull from Moses...How can the Pharisees argue with the Law & Prophets?

G. Slide#14 Corban – Mark explains to his Roman audience this Hebrew word a gift to God; devoted to God.

1. If a son wanted to avoid his responsibility, of caring for his parents in later life, he simply needed to declare his money Corban…dedicated to God.
2. So, by observing what man allowed they could avoid what God required.
   a) Oh, Jesus is concerned about us taking care of our parents!
3. And this was just 1 example of many, claimed Jesus (13).

H. Note the digression here: 4 layers of thin blankets that smother:

1. Replacing (7)(heart for lips); Neglecting (8)(God’s commandments); Then, Rejecting (9)(God’s commandments); Invalidating (13)(no effect regarding the Word of God).
2. Aren’t these the steps of most “Cults”? – Teachings that are built around a prophet or prophetess whose writings eventually replace the Word of God.
3. What a false confidence man’s traditions have given to so many sincere people.
   a) As if what you do on the outside, will somehow change the inside.

I. So what is the balance or safe place with tradition?

1. Slide#15 Learn from what other Christian communities have learned over the years (i.e. traditions of old)
2. Never put it on the same level as the bible.
3. We must constantly differentiate between what is Scriptural & authoritative & traditions, which may or may not be relevant or helpful at any given time.
   a) (eg. Scriptural - the church meets weekly on the 1st day of the week. But tradition dictates time & location, & what we do when we meet)
4. Scripture is God-breathed; Tradition is man-made!
5. Scripture is from God & is Authoritative & Primary; Tradition is from man & is secondary & must remain flexible.
6. Traditions must always be subordinate to God’s Word.
7. We must constantly assess our traditions in the light of Scripture.

J. Slide#16blank What traditions will we hand down to the next generation, yet consider them doctrine?

1. Will we at Calvary require the next generation to wear Hawaiian shirts? Lead worship w/an acoustic guitar? Use aluminum communion trays? Have male worship leaders? Have a Dove as their logo?
   a) None of these are bad (maybe Hawaiian shirts) but will it be required of the next Calvary gen?
2. **One generation,** *Your hair's too long.* The next generation, *Your hairs to short,* it makes you look mean, like a white supremacist.

3. We shouldn’t pass on **Non-Essentials**; we must pass on **Jesus.**

### V. Slide#17 **THE DEFILEMENT** (14-23)  
**Think Internal not external; Think Potential b4 Actual**

A. **The issue?** – **Outward** religious traditions vs. **Inward** living faith.

1. **Slide#18** Imagine the disciples requesting of Jesus, *“Lord, teach us to wash!”*  

B. (15) William Barclay calls this *“well-nigh the most revolutionary passage in the N.T.”*  

1. **Dr. Vincent Taylor said,** *“[Jesus’ pronouncement]…was destined to free Christianity from the bondage of legalism.”*

C. **Sin is Internal** before it is **External** (17-19)

D. **Slide#19a (19)** It is the **heart** that must be changed. - External rituals cannot do that.

1. The capacity for **fellowship w/God** is not spoil by **outward things** like unclean hands **but by personal sin.**

2. **Prov.4:23** Keep your **heart** with all diligence, For **out of it spring the issues of life.**  

   a) **NLT** Guard your **heart** above all else, for it determines the **course** of your life.

E. **Slide#19b Sin is Potential** before it is **Actual** (20-23)

F. (21,22) Here Jesus gives us a catalogue of 13 ugly sins. It is an X-ray of the human heart.

1. **All of these sins lurk as a potential inside of all of us.**

2. So Jesus calls for purity, holiness, on the inside, from a changed heart from God.
   
a) **Slide#20** In the forests of northern Europe & Asia lives little animal called the **ermine,** known for his **snow-white fur** in winter. *He instinctively protects his white coat against anything that would soil it.* Fur hunters take advantage of this unusual trait of the ermine. They don’t set a snare to catch him, but instead they find his home, which is usually a cleft in a rock or a hollow in an old tree. They smear the entrance and interior with **grime.** Then the hunters set their dogs loose to find and chase the ermine. The frightened animal flees toward home but doesn’t enter because of the filth. Rather than soil his white coat, he is trapped by the dogs and captured while preserving his purity. *For the ermine, purity is more precious than life.*

3. **G. Slide#21blank (23)** Some, like the Pharisees of old, have a very **defective theology** of man & sin and think that **man is intrinsically/inherently good??**

1. And because of this they treated **symptoms** w/their **legalism,** rather than dealing w/ the **root problem!**

2. **Yes the bible deals with the fruit of sin; but better…it deals w/the root of sin.**  
   It doesn’t only deal w/the **flow of sin; but the very fountain of sin!**

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3 Our Daily Bread, April 21, 1997
3. The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately (incurably) wicked; Who can know it? - For the wages of sin (not sins) is death.
   a) “We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners!”

H. (Spurgeon) “If sin had not been in you, it could not have come out. All the trouble in the world does not put sin in the Christian. It brings it out.”
1. You might think, “My wife makes me so angry!” – No, anger was already there in your heart & this just gave it opportunity to come out!

I. So, what’s the remedy?
1. It’s not education, culture change, social reform, nor revolution, but regeneration.
2. The heart can be purified only by faith.

J. Slide#22,23 Wrap up: Your choice: Keep polishing your broken watch; or receive a new mainspring, from The Watch-Maker, for your heart today.
1. Ezek.36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.