

In the name of the Father, of the Son, of the holy Spirit  
One God Amen.

በስመ አብ ወወልድ ወመንፈስ ቅዱስ አሐዱ አምላክ አሜን።

ትውፊት እንታይ እዩ? ካብ ባህሊኻ ብምንታይ ይፍለ?

**What is a Holy tradition?**

**(Holy Tradition vs. People's tradition)**

**Eritrean Orthodox Church Diocese of North America,**

**West Coast 2<sup>nd</sup> year Youth Retreat**

**By Fr. Dibe Layne**

**Deacon Tedros Tesfay**

\* Most of this lecture is adapted from, '*Comparative Theology*' by H.H. Pope Shenouda III.

# ባህልን ትውፊትን ብምንታይ ይፍለ?

## What is a tradition?

❖ A Tradition is the handing down **ORALLY** of customs, beliefs, stories etc, .... from generation to generation. ብቃል ዝመሓላለፍ ልምዲ፡ ኣገባብን ኣነባብራን።

❖ The word “tradition” comes from Latin “Traditio.”

❖ A translation of a Greek word “Paradosis”.

ትውፊት ቅዱስ ባህሊ እዩ What makes a tradition holy?

❖ ትውፊት ቅዱስ ባህሊ ዘብሎ ካብ እግዚአብሔር ዝተረኸበን

ንኸብሪ እግዚአብሔር ዝተሰርዐን ብምኻኑ’ዩ

❖ If the source of the tradition is God, Godly people, whose only goal is honoring God and leading people for a transformed (spiritually matured) life

# ትውፊት ቅዱስ ባህሊ እዩ What makes a tradition holy?

- ❖ Tradition is the living out of the revelation of God by His people (What We Believe, by Fr. Daniel Anderson. 1997, Conciliar Press).
- ❖ These traditions are described in the Old and New Testaments
- ❖ ትውፊት ካብ ብሉይ ኪዳንን ኣድሻ ኪዳንን ዝተረኸበ'ዩ።
- ❖ ትውፊት ክንዲ ጠቓሚ ምዃኑ ብግቡእ እንተዘይተፈሊጡ ንህዝቢ ከደናግርን ኣብ ታሪኽ ከምእንዕዘቦ፡ ቅንዕና ብዘጥፍኡ መራሕቲ ኃይማኖት ብተደጋጋሚ ተበዝቢዙ እዩ። (ንኣብነት ነቲ ካህን ዝነበረ ሉተር ኣድሻ ማሕበር ክርስትያን/ፕሮተስታንት/ ክጅምር ዝገበሮ)
- ❖ ትውፊት ምስ ዓለማዊነት ድኣ እምበር ምስ ዘመናዊ ቴክኖሎጂ ኣይጋጮን እዩ። (ዓለማዊነት ነቲ ጥንታዊ ትምህርቲ ክርስቶስ ጠንጢንካ፡ ኣድሻ ትምህርቲ፡ ልምዲ፡ ኣድሻ መሰረት ምህናጽ እዩ)።

# ባህሊ ጽቡቆን ሕማቆን ዝሓቆፈ እዩ። **People's tradition**

- ❖ **Every society in every generation has its own tradition. There are good and bad things in it**
- ❖ **The good traditions, majority of them, are directly or indirectly came from Holy traditions, biblical teachings, lives of good people, laws and regulations....**
- ❖ ብተዛማዲ ባህልና ብዙሕ ዝንኡድ ኣሎዎ፤ ብፍላይ ካልእ ምስረኣኻ።
- ❖ **The bad traditions hurt the people who practice them and others**
- ❖ **There were traditions that the bible is warning us not to fit into them (መጽሓፍ ቅዱስ ካብ ሕማቆ ባህሊ ርሓቆ ይብል)**

## ባህሊ ፈሪሳውያን። **people's tradition**

- ❖ Examples:- Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? **And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. (Matthew 15:1-7, Mark 7:3-13)**

ባህሊ ሰብ ካብ ክርሰቶስ ኪፈልየካ ይኸእል

- ❖ Examples:- 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. (Col 2:8)
- ❖ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 2 Th 3:6

**Now can you tell me some of the bad customs in our culture (Eritrean Culture, Eritrean-American Culture and American Culture)?**

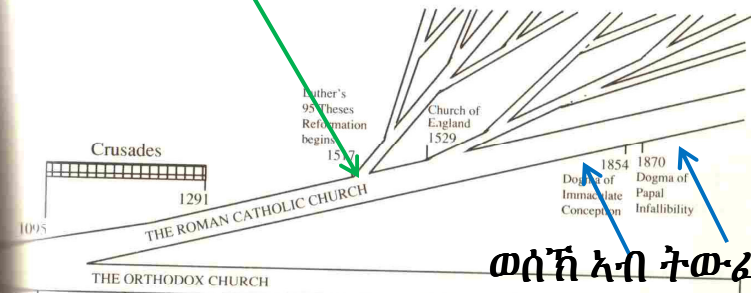
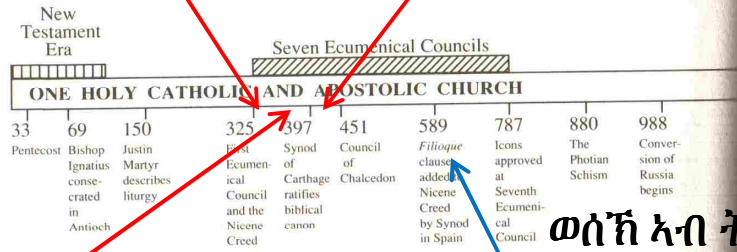
ምስ ቅዱሳት ጽሑፋትን ተልእኾ ቤተክርስቲያንን ዘይሳነ ባህልታትና ክንገልጽ ንኸእልዶ?

325 ጉባኤ ንቅያ

431 ጉባኤ ኤፌሶን

ካህን ሉተር ዝተፈለየሉ

A Time Line of Church History



ወሰኛ ኣብ ትውፊት

ወሰኛ ኣብ ትውፊት

381 ጉባኤ ቁስጥንጥንያ

- 33 Pentecost (A.D. 29 is thought to be more accurate).
- 49 Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15) establishes precedent for addressing Church disputes in Council. James presides as bishop.
- 69 Bishop Ignatius consecrated in Antioch in heart of New Testament era—St. Peter had been the first bishop there. Other early bishops include James, Polycarp, and Clement.
- 95 Book of Revelation written, probably the last of the New Testament books.
- 150 St. Justin Martyr describes the liturgical worship of the Church, centered in the Eucharist. Liturgical worship is rooted in both the Old and New Testament.

- 325 The Council of Nicea settles the major heretical challenge to the Christian faith when the heretic Arius asserts Christ was created by the Father. St. Athanasius defends the eternity of the Son of God. The Arians continue their assault on true Christianity for years. Nicea is the first of Seven Ecumenical (Church-wide) Councils.
- 451 Council of Chalcedon affirms apostolic doctrine of two natures in Christ.
- 589 In a synod in Toledo, Spain, the *filioque*, asserting that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father *and the Son* is added to the Nicene Creed. This error is later adopted by Rome.
- 787 The era of Ecumenical Councils ends at Nicea, with the Seventh Council bringing the centuries-old use of icons back into the Church.

- 988 Conversion of Russia begins.
- 1054 The Great Schism occurs. Two major issues include Rome's claim to a universal papal supremacy and her addition of the *filioque* clause to the Nicene Creed. The Photian schism (880) further complicated the debate.
- 1095 The Crusades begun by the Roman Church. The Sack of Constantinople by Rome (1204) adds to the estrangement between East and West.
- 1333 St. Gregory Palamas defends the Orthodox practice of hesychast spirituality and the use of the Jesus prayer.
- 1453 Turks overrun Constantinople; Byzantine Empire ends.

- 1517 Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of the Roman Church in Wittenberg, starting the Protestant Reformation.
- 1529 Church of England begins pulling away from Rome.
- 1794 Missionaries arrive on Kodiak Island in Alaska; Orthodoxy introduced to North America.
- 1854 Rome establishes the Immaculate Conception dogma.
- 1870 Papal Infallibility becomes Roman dogma.
- 1988 One thousand years of Orthodoxy in Russia, as Orthodox Church world-wide maintains fullness of the apostolic faith.

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ሊቃውንቲ ቤተክርስቲያን ከምዝገልጹዎ: ካቶሊካውያን ኣሕዋትና ንትውፊት ኪውስኽሉ ከሎዉ፤ ፕሮቴስታንት ከኣ ጠቕላላ ይነጽግዎ።



# Holy Tradition In The Old Testament

- ❖ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering. Gen 4:4 (written law was given later)
- ❖ In the same manner Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and also Job knew the offering animal sacrifice and building Altars through Holy tradition before the written law Gen 8:20
- ❖ This stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to you. Gen. 28:22

እዛ ከም ሓወልቲ ገይረ ኣቐመዖ ዘለኹ ከኣ ቤትካ ክትከውን እያ። ካብ እትህበኒ ዘበለ ኩሉ ድማ ዕሽር ክህበካ እየ እናበል ተመባጸዐ።

# ትውፊት ኣብ ብሉይ ኪዳን (Holy Tradition In The Old Testament)

- ❖ Joseph knew that adultery is a great ‘wickedness’ he knows through holy tradition long, before the written law. Gen 39:9-10
- ❖ ከመይ ገይረ እዚ ዓቢይ ክፍዓት ኣብ ቅድሚ ኣምላኽ ሓጢአት ክገብር።
- ❖ God rested on the seventh day therefore the lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Ex 20:11
- ❖ ኣነ እግዚአብሔር ብሳብዓይቲ መዓልቲ ከኣ ኣዕረፍኩ ኣነ ንመዓልቲ ሰንበት ባረኽክዎን ቀደስክዎን።
- ❖ we read about Melchizedek being called a priest of God. And Abraham give him a tithe. Gen 14:18-2
- ❖ መልክ ዴዴቅ እቲ ካህን ሉዑል ኣምላኽ እንጌራን ወይንን ኣምጽኤ,,, ኣብ ኣብርሃም ድማ ካብቲ ዝማረኹ ዕሽር ሃቦ።

# ትውፊት ኣብ ብሉይ ኪዳን (Holy Tradition In The Old Testament)

- ❖ Almost two thousand years had elapsed since the creation of Adam and Eve until the written law was given to Moses the Prophet. During this long period of time Tradition was the only source of knowledge about God and His commandments.
- ❖ ኩሎም ናይ እግዚአብሔር ዓበይቲ ሰባት፡ ንኣምላኽ ባህ ዘብሎ መስዋእቲ፡ ዕሽር፡ ቅዱስ ናብራ (ካብ ሓጢአት ዝሃድም ህይወት) ኪነብሮም ዝኸኣለ ኣየናይ ጽሑፋት ብምኽታል እዮም?
- ❖ ሕግታት እግዚአብሔር 2000 ዓመታት ድሕሪ ዘመን ናይዞም ቅዱሳት ኣበታት እዩ ተዋሂቡ።
- ❖ እምበኣር መልሲ ናይዚ ሕቶ ትውፊት እዩ። እንታይ መረጋገጺ ኣሎና?

# Holy Tradition In The Old Testament

- ❖ During this period, holy men and women (Abel, Enoch, Methuselah, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Melchizedek, Lot, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob, Rachel, etc...) pleased God with their righteous lives and have been considered as examples for us to learn from and follow. (Heb 11:1-29; 1Pet 3:1-6)
- ❖ King David, “We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what deeds You did in their days, in days of old.” (Ps 44:1)
- ❖ “ከ ኣምላኽ እቲ ቀደም ብዘመን ኣቦታትና ዝገበርካዮ ግብርስ ኣቦታትና ኣዘንትዮምልና ኣለዉ። በእዛንና ሰሚዕናዮ ኢና።” መዝ 44:1

# ዘይተጻሕፈ ትግሥርቲ ኣሎናዶ? Questions To Ponder:

- Many times we read in the Holy Gospels about our Lord Jesus Christ teaching the people in the synagogues (Mt 9:35; Mk 1:21; 6:2; Lk 4:15; 13:22; 19:47), but the Holy Bible did not document any of these blessed teachings. Did all these Divine teachings just vanish?
- It has been said, that all that is written in the Holy Gospels cumulatively, would only cover 18 days in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. His ministry was approximately 3 years ( $3 \times 365 = 1095$  days). What about the missing 1077 days? Where are the writings of over 99% of His ministry?

# ትውፊት አብ ሓድሽ ኪዳን

## Questions To Ponder:

- Many times we read in the Holy Gospels about our Lord Jesus Christ teaching the people in the synagogues (Mt 9:35; Mk 1:21; 6:2; Lk 4:15; 13:22; 19:47), but the Holy Bible did not document any of these blessed teachings. Did all these Divine teachings just vanish?
- ❖ ጎይታናን መድሐኒናን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ ንእስታት 3 ዓመትን 3 ወርሕን (3 x 365=1095 መዓልትት) አብ አብያተ ጸሎትን ካልእ ቦታታትን ብቐጻሊ የስተምህር ነይሩ። ኩሉ እንተዘጽሓፍ ብዙሓት መጻሕፍቲ ምኾነ። መጽሓፍ ቅዱስ ብሓጺር ከምዝተጻሕፈ ተገሊጹልና እዩ።
- ❖ “ኢየሱስ ድማ አብዚ መጽሓፍ እዚ ዘይተጻሕፈ ኻልእ ብዙሕ ተኣምራት አብ ቅድሚ ደቀ መዛሙርቱ ገበረ። ግናኸ ኢየሱስ ንሱ ክርስቶስ ወዲ አምላኽ ከም ዝኾነ ምእንቲ ኸትኣምኑ ኣሚንኩም ብስሙ ሕይወት ምእንቲ ክትረኽቡ እዩ ኣዚ ዝተጻሕፍ።” ዮሃ 20:30-31

## ትውፊት ኣብ ሓድሽ ኪዳን? **Questions To Ponder:**

- It is written that our Lord Jesus Christ remained with His disciples 40 days after His resurrection “speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God” (Acts 1:3). But the Holy Book of Acts doesn’t reveal what our Lord said. Does this mean that we have no access to these things pertaining to the Kingdom of God?
- St. Jacob wrote only one short Holy Epistle that probably took one hour of his time, St. Jude left us a very short Holy Epistle that might have taken half an hour to write, and St. Peter left us two short Holy Epistles. Where are the rest of their blessed teachings? Where are the teachings of the rest of the Apostles?

# Holy Tradition In The New Testament

- ❖ Our Lord Jesus Christ did not write a book, He did not document His blessed teachings on paper, but He chose His disciples who accompanied Him day and night.
- ❖ They absorbed His teachings and learned directly from Him. He sent them to teach the whole world and to make disciples of all nations, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” (Mt 28:19) Making disciples is based primarily on direct contact with the person and on verbal teaching
- ❖ St. Paul said to his disciple Timothy, “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me.” (1Tim 1:13)



# Holy Tradition In The New Testament

- ❖ St. John “I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.” (3Jn 13)
- ❖ St. Paul said to the Corinthians, “The rest I will set in order when I come.” (1Cor 11:34)
- ❖ St. John said, “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)
- ❖ Example if you look for this verse, whom St. Paul quoted the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, many times **“It is more blessed to give than to receive”** you do find it in any of the four Holy Gospels but were known by Holy Tradition. (Acts 20: 35) Also (1Cor 7:10) and (1Cor 9:14).

# ንትውፊት ኣብ ሓድሽ ኪዳን መረጋገጺ ኣሎዶ? Holy

## Tradition In The New Testament

- ❖ “Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us as a pattern” (Phil 3:17), and **“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do.”** (Phil 4:9) ሃዋርያ ደውሎስ “እቲ ካባይ ዝሰማዕልኻምዎ፡ ዝተመሃርኻምዎን ዝረአኻምዎን ግበሩ እኛ ኣምላኽ ሰላም ምሳኻትኩም ኪኸውን እዩ”
- ❖ St. Paul said, “For in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.” (1Cor 4:16) ሃዋርያ ደውሎስ “..ሰዓብተይ ኩኑ”
- ❖ St. Paul **“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”** 2 Thessalonians 2:15

# ንትውፊት ኣብ ሓድሽ ኪዳን መረጋገጺ ኣሎዶ? Holy Tradition In The New Testament

- ❖ “እምበኣር ኣቱም ኣሕዋትና ጸኒዕኩም ቁሙ፡ ነቲ ብቻል ኮነ ብመልእኽትና ዝመሃርናኩም ከኣ ሓዝዎ።
- ❖ ንመጽሓፍ ቅዱስ ዓቂባ ናባና ዘብጽሐት ቤተክርስቲያን እያ። ንሳ ብጽሑፍ ዝሰፈረ ቅዱስ ቃል ከይሃለዎ ከሎውን ብትውፊት እንዳተምርሐት ንእምነት ክርስትና ብብዙሕ መስዋእትነት ናብ ዳሕረዎት ወለዶታት ኣሰጋጊራ እያ።
- ❖ ስለዚ ብትውፊት ዝምራሕ ኣማኒ ንመጽሓፍ ቅዱስ ከምዊንታኡ ኣይትርግሞን እዩ። ኣቦታት ብኸመይ ገሊጾም ኢልና ንሓትት። ምኽንያቱ ካብቶም ተቐባልቲ እቲ መልእኽቲ ንላዕሊ ኣድቂቑ ኪፈልጥ ዝኸእል የሎን።
- ❖ **Christianity is, therefore, a religion that is Holy Tradition-bound and is strongly committed to discipleship.**

# ንትውፊት ኣብ ሓድሽ ኪዳን መረጋገጺ ኣሎዶ? Holy Tradition In The New Testament

- ❖ እምበኣር እምነት ክርስትና ብቅዱሳት መጻሕፍትን ብትውፊትን እንዳተሰነኻ እትኸዶ መገዲ ምስዝኸውን ንእግዚአብሔር ብልክዕ ትፈልጦን ተምልኾን ንህይወትካ ኸአ ቦቲ ቅኑዕ መገዲ መንግስቲ ኣምላኽ ትወርስ።
- ❖ “ኣብ ቀራና ጎደናታት ደው ኢልኩም ተመልከቱ፡ እቲ ጥንታዊ መገድታትን እቲ ጽቡቕ ጎደናን ኣየናይ ምዃኑ ሕተቱ እሞ ብኣኡ ተመላለሱ፡ ሽዑ ንነፍሳኹም ዕረፍቲ ኸትረኽቡ ኢኹም” ኤር 6:16 (ኣዚአ ብምንታይ ንዝክራ?)
- ❖ ቀሊል ሕቶ ብምምላስ ሎሚ'ውን ኣብቲ ክርስቶስ ባዕሉ ዝገደፈልና፡ ኃዋርያትን ቅዱሳት ኣቦታትን ዓቂቦም ዘውረሱና ትውፊት እንተጸናዕና ንረብሓና ምዃኑ ክንግንዘብ ንኸእል ኢና።
- ❖ ወለዶ እዚ ዘመን ይኹን ቅድሚና ዝነበሩ፡ ብናይ ቴክኖሎጂ መሃዝነትን ተጠቓምነትን ኢና ንበልጽ እምበር ባህልን ወግዕን ሕብረተሰብ ኣብ ምሕላው ቀዳሞት ኣቦሓጎታትና ብልጫ ኣለዎም። ክቡር ባህሊ እንዳተበረዘ'ዩ ዝኸይድ

ንትውፊት ምእንቲ ከይጥሕሱ ህይወቶም ክሳብ  
ማእሰርቲን ስቓይን ዝወፈዩ ናይ ዘመንና ሃዋርያ “ቅዱስ  
አቡነ እንጦንዮስ፡ ጌይ ፓትርያርክ ኢ.ተ.ቤ/ክ  
ኤርትራ” ...



“ኣብ ቤት እግዚአብሔር ማለት ኣብታ ናይ ሓቂ ዓንድን መሰረትን ዝኾነት ቤተክርስቲያን ህያው ኣምላኽ፡ ከመይ ጌርና ክንነብር ከም ዝግብኣና ክትፈልጥ ጽሑፊልካ ኣሎኹ።” 1ይ መልእኽቲ ጳውሎስ ናብ ብመንፈስ ወዲ ዝኾነ ጢሞቴዎስ 3:15።

ንቅዱስ ሣልሳይ ፓትርያርክ ኣቡነ እንጦንዮስ ብጥዕናን ሰላምን ይሓልወልና!

ንብጹእ ኣቡነ መቃርዮስ ዕድመን ጥዕናን ኣብ ዕዮኡም ከኣ ኣሳልጦ ይሃብ።

ኣብ ቤተክርስቲያንናን ሃገርናን ድማ ሰላሙ የስፍን።

ርሑስ ትንሣኤ ጎይታናን መድሓኒናን ኢየሱስ ክርስቶስ ይግበረልና። አሜን።

## መወከሥ (References)

- ❖ Holy Bible (KJV) and Tigrigna
- ❖ Most of this lecture is adapted from, '*Comparative Theology*' by H.H. Pope Shenouda III.
- ❖ Liturgical Teaching by Bishop Moussa
- ❖ Eritrean Orthodox Church Diocese of North America Website ([www.tewahdo.org](http://www.tewahdo.org))
- ❖ Egyptian Orthodox Church, Diocese of Southern United State website ([www.suscopts.org](http://www.suscopts.org))