

Changing the Purpose, Changes Everything (1)

David Halbrook

Does God focus on “what” we do or “why” we do certain things? Jesus said, ...*he that does the will of My Father in heaven* will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7:21). When the Holy Father tells us “what” to do, we must do it. When He tells us “why” to do certain things, we must do them for that reason. If I do “what” God says but for a different purpose than God’s, have I done His will?

For example, in 1 Corinthians 11, when the saints came together as a church, there was eating and drinking whose purpose was not to remember Jesus’ death. Paul teaches them that “hunger-eating” is for the home and “memorial-eating” is for the church (v18, 24-25, 34). The *purpose* for eating mattered. Changing the purpose for eating the Lord’s Supper, changes everything, doesn’t it?

An adjunct professor of Harding University (John Hicks) has said that the focus of the Lord’s Supper should be on the resurrection of Jesus, not His death ([Come to the Table](#), p189). The Lutheran Church eats the Lord’s Supper for the forgiveness of sins. Why does it matter, as long as we eat? Because changing the purpose, changes everything!

Editor’s Note: Find a way to help others find our article in *Arkansas Weekly*. If “personal evangelism” was on your list of “New Year’s Resolution,” then use these articles to help you start a conversation with someone.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

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Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*
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Watching Our Words

Stacy Dean Crim

“Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.” Ecclesiastes 5:2

We really do have to watch what we say don’t we? Not everything we say is appropriate. Not everything we say is right and good. James affirmed this when he wrote “...If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” James 3:2

Since none of us are perfect, we know that all of us have said something that we should not have let slip off of our tongue.

This is why James also wrote how important it is to be slow to speak. (James 1:19) Sometimes the right thing to do is keep our mouth shut. We teach our children to watch their mouth. We sing with our children “be careful little mouth what you say”, and yet somehow as an adult we often fail to give thought before we speak. Our words are not chosen carefully.

Proverbs 13:3 “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.”

Proverbs 15:2 “The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.”

God’s people need to hold their tongue and use words that profess wisdom instead of foolishness.

Our subject is not to be taken lightly. Jesus said “But I say unto you, That every idle (careless esv) word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.” Matthew 12:26

It is true that our words can get us into a lot of trouble and useless or wicked can have eternal effect at judgment. “therefore let thy words be few” Ecclesiastes 5:2

Your Words

David O. Lanius, Jr.

“Out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be”, James 3:10. “But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”, Matt. 12:36-7.

Many of us use words in our every day conversation that we do not need to be using. We have not thought out our words as to their meanings and it is with this purpose in mind that I write this article. I call your attention to some expressions used by Christians.

Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary list the following words (bywords, expressions) that I want us to notice:

CONFOUND ---- “damned; a mild oath.”

DARN or DERN ---- “damn; a euphemism.” (“Euphemism is the use of words or phrases that are less offensive etc., than another.”)

DOGGONE ---- “an imprecation, or perhaps euphemistic remodeling of God-damn.”

GOLLY ---- “an euphemism for God.”

GEE ---- “euphemistic contraction for Jesus.”

GOSH ---- “euphemism for God.”

HECK ---- “an exclamation used as a euphemism for hell.”

It may shock (or should) some of you to learn what you have been saying and I hope you will improve your speech and vocabulary. I am sure you will want to stop after having these words defined for you.

There are some other expressions I want us to note because some are using them. Such expressions like, “My Lord,” “Lordy,” “My God,” “Good God,” and such like. Those who use such expressions are taking the name of God in vain and He has never been pleased with such. I have always thought that people who use bywords, cursings, swearings and such like are showing themselves unwise as well as sinning. Let us study our language and remember that Jesus said, “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned”, Matthew 12:37

Already at a Church Near You Joe R. Price

A businessman is advancing the idea of putting a McDonald’s franchise in a place of worship. The McMass Project wants to raise \$1 million on the crowdfunding website, IndieGoGo, to achieve this goal. As of November 28 they had raised \$104.

McMass is the brainchild of Paul Di Lucca, a creative director at the church branding agency Lux Dei Design.” “Christianity is unable to capture modern audiences,” Di Lucca told NBC News. “There’s a lack of innovation and lack of design thinking in Church communities” (foxnews.com). “It’s time for churches to engage with entrepreneurship,” writes the group. “By combining a church and a McDonald’s we can create a self-sustaining, community-engaged, popular church, and an unparalleled McDonald’s restaurant” (“A McDonald’s in a church? McMass wants one”, news.com.au). The McMass group is looking for a church with which it [can] partner. Sooner or later they will find one.

Most members of churches of Christ are properly horrified by such a concept. Yet, it is just one more example of adapting to the will of the people – something that not a few churches of Christ already do. The social gospel is alive and well in many churches of Christ. For example:

1) *Many churches of Christ already have “McPotlucks”*. They have convinced themselves that spiritual edification and fellowship is achieved by feeding the stomach. So, these churches have their “multipurpose” rooms for their “potluck fellowship” gatherings. The Bible is clear that feeding the body is the role of the family, not the local church (1 Cor. 11:22, 34). Why do the “McPotluck” churches recoil at McMass? They just are not that far down the road of digression yet. Don’t worry; the next generation (or two) will go there.

2) *Many churches of Christ already have “McMedical Missions”*. They think by healing the body they get a foot in the door to heal souls with the gospel. The work of local churches of Christ is to sound forth the word of the Lord, not to bait and switch people with free vaccinations, medical clinics and dental exams (1 Ths. 1:8; Acts 8:4; 1 Cor. 2:1-2). What is the difference between McMass luring people with burgers and fries, and medical missions luring people with medical aid? There is no difference. But someone asks, why shouldn’t a church operate a hospital or other medical mission? Because general benevolence is not authorized by the New Testament as a work of local churches (Col. 3:17).

3) *Many churches of Christ already have “McSports”*. They organize softball teams, basketball teams and more. They call it “fellowship”, but it is recreation, not fellowship with Christ (1 Cor. 1:9). If churches can arrange sports, why not arrange a restaurant, too?

We urge brethren who are offended by McMass to be equally offended by similar unscriptural innovations they have already accepted.