

## “SINFULLY DELICIOUS” HAMBURGERS

David Halbrook

Friday, at the county fair, an area Catholic church advertised its “Heavenly Hamburgers” as “Sinfully Delicious.” I realize this is an attempt at humor, but is *everything* joke-worthy? Can you imagine Jesus selling sheep in Jerusalem, with a banner over His stand saying “Buy your lamb from the Lamb of God!”? Just like bomb jokes are not appropriate at an airport, why is “sin” something for a Catholic Church to joke about?

The irony is that before 1983, all Catholics were forbidden to eat meat on Fridays. Think about that! The Catholic Church once said that it was literally, not jokingly, SINFUL to eat meat on Fridays, and now they are selling “Sinfully Delicious” hamburgers on Friday.

In 1 Timothy 4:1-3, the Holy Spirit warned of *doctrines of demons* such as requiring people to *abstain from foods which God created to be received*... Friend, this is serious. As Jesus identified religious hypocrisy and error (read Matthew 15, 23), those who follow Him must imitate Him, boldly speaking words of truth and reason in love.

-- *Editor's Note:* After two busy weeks, are you resting or will you stay busy in other ways? The past two weeks should remind us of how much work there is to do. Each week we are spending money on these articles in *Arkansas Weekly*—are you working to help others to find them?

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

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

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## ***HOW TO PRAY IN PUBLIC***

Jarrod Jacobs

Many times, we see some good brethren who do not want to lead a public prayer. When questioned as to why they do not wish to lead a public prayer, they say, “I do not know how to pray in public.” Brother Gardner S. Hall, Sr. (1906-1978), was confronted with this problem and wrote down four suggestions which will help men with the public prayer. Please read these carefully.

1. Pray often in private so that you will be familiar with God and used to speaking to Him. Then when you lead prayer, think of Him (as you would any other time) and not of men (Ps. 88:1).

2. Do not make a sermon of the prayer. It is true that prayer is to be understood by all being led, and it will edify them. But it is silly to pray (to God) by preaching (to men) as though God needed the reproofing and rebuking people need (Jas. 1:17b)!

3. Do not try to be eloquent. Be sincere, fervent, humble, and respectful in talking to God as you would at any time; if you do that, it does not matter what men think about fancy words.

4. Give careful thought to what you say. Pray that we may prepare our lessons or may always worship God acceptably; instead of that “we may have” done such; it is too late if we have not! When praying at the Lord’s table, do not pray the same prayer you would at the close of worship; think of the specific occasion of the prayer.

Hopefully, these suggestions will help all those who pray to become better. We need to remember, “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” (Jas. 5:16)! Let us all work on leading prayer in a better and more effective way. What a wonderful blessing prayer is! When we pray, we are talking to God Almighty. Surely, the songwriters were right when they wrote, “What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer”!

If we want to read about how to pray, and what the subjects of prayer might be, we need to read the prayers of Jesus (John 17, etc.), the apostles (Romans 10:1, etc.), and the early Christians (Acts 4:24-30, etc.). God has given us these great examples to study. Why not study these prayers that were offered to God and work to better ourselves in leading a public prayer?

([http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com/sermons/?page\\_id=105](http://caneyvillechurchofchrist.com/sermons/?page_id=105) 7-1-12)

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### ***THE NEED FOR MEEKNESS (EXCERPT)***

*Heath Rogers*

While the world may not find much use for meekness, the Scriptures tell us that this quality is needed in several important aspects of our lives.

**1. In receiving the word of God.** *“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls”* (James 1:21). Remember, W.E. Vine said that meekness is “that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.” Without meekness, my reception of God’s word will be selective at best. The parts that I like will be accepted, while the portions of Scripture which challenge me to make undesirable changes will be dismissed. How many Christians do you and I know who are selective in their acceptance of God’s word? Meekness is the ingredient that is missing from their lives.

**2. In defending the truth.** *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”* (1 Peter 3:15). The manner in which we defend our faith often says as much about our faith as the content of our answer. No “teaching” moment should be wasted as an opportunity for us to “flex” our spiritual muscles. The truth will cast down error, but that truth will never be “heard” if we handle ourselves in a caustic or arrogant manner.

**3. In restoring the erring.** *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted”* (Galatians 6:1). Sometimes, those who are in error will respond to correction by lashing out and making accusations against those who have come to help them. A soul is not won by proving that we can win an argument. Any “hot-head” can drive away an injured soul. It takes a mature, loving, gentle Christian to draw them back into the fold.

**4. In dealing with our brethren.** *“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do”* (Colossians 3:12-14). We must be gentle in the way that we treat one another. God has seen fit to join His children together in one family and one body. In order for this body to function properly, each member must do its share (Ephesians 4:16) and every member must treat others with kindness, preference, and love.

**5. In dealing with our fellowman.** *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men”* (Romans 12:18). I cannot control others, but I can control myself. Meekness is a choice, and I can choose how to react to others. I am to be peaceable and gentle, showing humility.

([watchmanmag.com/2011/08/12/blessed-are-the-meek/](http://watchmanmag.com/2011/08/12/blessed-are-the-meek/))

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### ***THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS***

*John Smith*

The past 24 hours have been excruciatingly painful, physically and mentally. Around midnight Jesus was praying with such fervor and intensity that Doctor Luke says His sweat became like drops of blood. He has been deprived of sleep and food being moved from one chamber to another while enduring a series of judicial mockeries. He has been severely weakened by a cruel series of abuses. He suffered through a scourging leaving His back in ribbons of quivering bleeding flesh. Thorns have been impaled in His scalp. He has been mocked, laughed at, and ridiculed. His own people, the very ones He came to save, have turned against Him and cried out for His execution.

Without question, the crucifixion of Jesus was a terrible event. It was an excruciating and painful way to die, which Jesus was willing to accept without pain-killing drugs (Matt. 27:32-35). It was a shameful way to die. He was mocked by those who watched, crucified with common thieves (Matt. 27:36-44). Along with the physical suffering, there was the spiritual agony (Matt. 27:45-50).

We need to be reminded that Jesus did all of this FOR ME. He endured the humiliation, pain, anguish and suffering because He wanted *me* saved.

*“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13), yet I was living in rebellion to His will. I was a sinner who had violated His will. How much greater is the love that would lead Jesus to the cross for a sinner like me.