

# The Fellowship Room

**Words of Wisdom** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [WECO FM 101.3](#) and [The Fellowship Room](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

## **7-17-2017 "Sorcery"**

When King Manasseh completely abandoned God,

[He] caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger (**2 Chronicles 33:6**).

All societies that abandon God resort to these same kinds of practices: heartless sacrifice of their children; vain and completely false sources of spiritual information; and immoral behavior before God. "Sorcery" today would be called "drug abuse." Problems then and Jesus' answer now is to:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:15-16**).

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## **7-18-2017 What Is A Fool?**

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good" (**Psalms 14:1**)

"The fool" says this with words of denial, or by the life of denial. The New Testament describes people living without God:

They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work (**Titus 1:16**).

Whether stated or lived, one is a fool to disregard God! "Fool" means empty, evil, corrupt. All who do "not like to retain God in their knowledge" God gives over to a debased mind (**Romans 1:28**), for

[They are] having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart (**Ephesians 4:18**).

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### **7-19-2017 Did Jesus Make Baptism Essential To Salvation?**

Jesus said,

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**),

and placed baptism after believing but before salvation. Why is this so? ***If Jesus had felt baptism had nothing whatever to do with salvation, He would have***

- (1) *left it out altogether, but He included it;***
- (2) *mentioned it after salvation, but not one passage of Scripture where baptism and salvation/remission of sins are mentioned together that places salvation before baptism;***
- (3) *specifically said that it had nothing whatever to do with salvation, but no New Testament writer ever taught this ;***
- (4) *warned His disciples that it contradicted God's other commandments but Peter did not think it contradicted any passage dealing with "works," "grace," "love," or "faith" when he said***

Baptism doth also now save us (**1 Peter 3:21** KJV).

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### **7-20-2017 Free Speech Is Not a License**

Not all speech has a moral right to be offered. Just because we can, doesn't mean we should.

LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph? They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves (**Psalm 94:3-4**).

Censorship is forced upon people, Christians are considerate.

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one (**Colossians 4:6**).

Christians will "speak freely" about Jesus Christ, as Paul did (**Acts 26:24-28**), because Christians know:

Since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — (**2 Corinthians 3:12**).

[Christians] are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth (**Colossians 3:8**).

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### **7-21-2017 Useless "Religion"**

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you' (**Acts 17:22-23**).

"Religion" literally means "fearing some deity," in this case, idols. Some people are "very religious" about the "gods" of: power, sex, money, sports, themselves, or things. "Worship without knowing" the God of Heaven and Earth and the Bible is vain.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless (**James 1:26**).

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