

NO THANK YOU LORD

When your host offers you a dish which you find unpalatable, you might say, “No thank you, I don’t care for that.” Or if someone offers you a job you may respond, No thanks, I don’t enjoy that kind of work. To decline such offers, on the basis of your taste or preference is certainly within your right. But when God speaks to you, expressing his will and desire for you, we have no such latitude. He is creator, we his creatures. He is Lord, we his servants. He is infallible, while we are most fallible. He is infinite in knowledge, we are finite. He is wise beyond our comprehension, we are foolish and often don’t even realize the fact. This being the case, how dare any man refuse to accept God’s will in matters of faith and conduct?

* He gave us one church purchased by the agonizing death of his only begotten Son (Acts 20:28). Paul did not blush to refer to the many congregations of God’s people as “churches of Christ” (Rom. 16:16). How dare any mortal say, “No thanks Lord, I prefer another church of my choosing?”

* He prescribed for his people a perfect form of worship. How impudent for his children to say, “No thanks, Lord, I prefer to worship my way, or like my denominational neighbors, or like the glitzy tele-churches!”

* He tells us to praise Him with the fruit of our lips (Heb. 13:15) and to sing and make melody with our hearts (Eph. 5:19). How presumptuous for a mortal to say, “No thanks Master, I much prefer to mingle my songs with the piano or guitar!”

* He has revealed his will for our salvation. Through his Son he has offered us the most valuable gift of pardon and acceptance. He conditioned his offer on faith, repentance and immersion in water (Acts 2:38). He ungrateful and ungracious for a lost sinner, desperately in need of the gift to reply, “No thank you God, I don’t care for immersion!”

* He said that both men and women can be priests before me; both can be my children (Gal. 3:26-28); both can actively serve me in my church/kingdom, but I suffer not a woman to teach or have dominion over men (I Cor. 14:33-34; I Tim. 2:11-12). How arrogant for postmoderns to say, “No thank you Creator, Savior and King, we prefer to have our women lead in our churches.”

Burger King legitimately sold millions of hamburgers by saying to its customers, “Have It Your Way.” But that attitude has no place in the kingdom of Christ. It is the rebellious spirit of misguided Christians, deceived by the promoters of change. The consequences of that spirit will be disastrous (Matt. 7:21). JHW