

STOP USING ALIEN VERNACULAR

When I was a teenager, I was so very ignorant. I remember listening to many songs on the radio and singing along with them, even if I didn't know the words. I would hear words that I thought I understood and I would sing the song with the words that I inserted. I was so ignorant. For some reason, I liked the beat more than I cared for the words and this caused me to miss a lot when it came to the meaning of the songs and the message that the bands were trying to convey. I think that a lot of people did this very same thing. The musicians drew us in with cool sounding guitars and "different" types of music styles and it really didn't matter to us what the words meant.

Although I am of Jewish stock, my mother brought us to church every Sunday when I was very young. I later resisted going and later I was not "forced" to go anymore. So I knew the basics of who Yeshua was and I knew a rudimentary form of the Gospel. Although I knew of Yeshua, I didn't know Yeshua; there is a big difference.

I still cringe when I remember singing along to George Harrison's song, "My Sweet Lord." Like many, I thought that the song was talking about Yeshua and when I sang it I was relating to Yeshua, however the song is very Hindu in meaning and the "lord" that the song is praising is actually the Hindu god "Vishnu." The catch-word in the song was lord. With a very watered-down knowledge of Yeshua, who we always called "Lord," when the song related to lord I thought it was talking about Yeshua. That is why I feel that it is very important to use the names of Elohim (God), rather than the generic name God. In my ignorance way back then, I was actually praising Vishnu with my mouth while I was relating to Yeshua in my being. Outwardly I was honoring a Hindu false god for everyone to see. It didn't matter that I was relating to Yeshua inside, I was outwardly witnessing for Vishnu. Ancient Israel did the same thing in a way. They had foreign gods in the Temple of the Living God, and they even proclaimed Yahweh and claimed to be a People of Yahweh but they served foreign gods. Like Yeshua said, you cannot serve two masters for you will love one and despise the other. Later in my youth I did just that, served the god of this world and mocked Yahweh, the true God.

Whenever I hear that song, "My Sweet Lord," I immediately flash back to the times when I would sing that song, so innocently, but so very wrong. It still grieves me to this day, and when I hear that song now, I am quick to tell people about it, especially when I see believers in Yeshua singing it. I am glad that I can be a resource to them, something that I never really had.

As believers in Yahweh Yeshua we are duty bound to guard ourselves against the wiles of the evil one; the garbage that is out there that is looking for any nook or cranny so that it can enter into our lives, or into us. Believers have become lazy and many tend to just sit and absorb unwholesome things without looking into them to see if they are good for us, or if they are harmful. We live in a world where we are constantly bombarded by worldly things that want to enter us via our eyes, ears and the other three sensory organs. We go to movies and place ourselves before a large screen that is often (more than not) feeding us worldly ideas that oppose Biblical living. We sit ourselves in front of a television that does the very same thing. Many of us go to school where we are indoctrinated in foreign ideas. Some believers choose to hang out with worldly people and take on their ways instead of bringing them to a knowledge of Yeshua. Some go out to bars with workmates after work. I've run into several people, who claim to be believers in Yeshua, who like to smoke marijuana for recreational use, opening up a doorway to the demonic realm that gives demons a right to enter into their lives.

It is easy to notice the people who have allowed the world to get into their lives. When I hear a believer in Yeshua using terms freely that no believer should be using it gives me a clue.

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. Matthew 15:18

I'll be the first to admit that not all things that come out of my mouth is wholesome. There are times when I am under stress that I use unwholesome words. Driving around Eugene is terribly hard and it drives me to anger sometimes; especially when I am running late and I get behind what seems like the ten thousandth person with tortoise nervosa. I admit that driving brings out the worse in me, and I pray for the day when Yahweh will help me to overcome that personality flaw. I will say however that I never use any word would be classified as using Yahweh's name in vain. I've done that in the past and it has grieved me greatly. I think that this is what separates the true followers of Yahweh from those who merely honor Him with their lips. When we blow it, does it grieve us? If it does then then you know Yahweh heart and you have the Holy Spirit telling you that what you did just hurt Yahweh Yeshua. If you are grieved by such things then you know that you grieved the Ruach Ha Kodesh; you can feel Yahweh's feelings on the matter. That is a wonderful thing.

Now, I don't know the heart of anyone but myself, and sometimes I have to wonder if I have a clue about my own heart. I believe that Yahweh reveals our hearts to us and He fixes things a little at a time until the work is finished. I also know that there are many people who do

things out of ignorance; because they never learned or because they do not like to learn. It is sort of grievous that we have the manual for living a holy life right in front of us. We have the words of Scripture to see what Yahweh requires and the many mistakes that those in the Bible have made. We've been given such a complete manual, such a detailed guide, yet so many refuse to read it for themselves. People are like electricity; it takes the path of least resistance. Electricity will always take the easiest rout to connect to a ground. People are so the same. If a person can go to church and get a message from a pastor then they feel that they have gotten the answer and they don't need to do anything else. After all, the pastor is a man of God, and he knows the Bible, so he broadcasts the truth, right? Well, not necessarily. The flaw in that way of thinking is that people tend to forget that pastors are people too, with every flaw that you and I have. There is no God-Man except for Yeshua, who incidentally, has promised to give the Ruach Ha Kodesh liberally to anyone who asks for Him.

Jim Wilhelmsen and I have taught for years, that when anyone hears us talk on the radio or on the phone or wherever, that they go back to the Bible to check the validity of what we say. We challenge people to do that very thing. We recognize that we are mere men, and we are capable of making mistakes. We have helped each other to see errors in each other's lives using this same principle. If we, being pastors tell people to check us, then each pastor should exhort their parishioners to do the same thing.

I guess that I've digressed a little bit, but those things needed to be said. The thing is this; are the things that you say, and the things that you do matching up with scripture. Let me give an example, or several examples. Several years ago, I saw in horror in a church when a pastor, who wanted to make a point, quoted Buddha. Now, why would anyone who has anything to do with teaching Biblical principles and the goodness of Yeshua, teach anything from any foreign god or foreign religion. There are many great lessons from Biblical scripture that could have enlightened our congregation. The congregation just sat there and accepted what that pastor had to say.

Before we go any farther, let's look at something. Back when I was a kid our nation was basically inhabited by Americans. By that I mean that all of us had either been born here or our fathers and grandfathers had been born here. We, for the most part honored Christianity and we spoke using a "Biblical" way of looking at things. When we said "God Bless You" when someone sneezed, we knew God to be Yahweh, the Lord God of Israel. When we told someone that we would pray for them, we meant that we would lift up petitions to Yahweh and so on. We knew that all other gods were false gods, therefore using the name God had only one meaning.

With the advent of a greatly increased immigration policy from Africa, Asia and non-Christian parts of the world we became a multicultural society. I never really thought about this until I was placed in working situations with people from other places. One day I was walking through a pharmacy and I happened to sneeze. I was told “god bless you” by quite a few people. I went back to my workstation and realized that the name “god” had become a widely used generic term. In that workplace I worked with people from Laos, India, the Islamic world and many other places. So, when the Hindu blessed me for sneezing, they were actually blessing me in the name of Vishnu, or Shiva or Kali. They weren’t blessing me in Yahweh’s name. When the Muslim blessed me for sneezing, they were blessing me in the name of Allah. When the Buddhist was blessing me, they were blessing me in the name of a New Age god. I quietly rebuked those blessings while recognizing that those people probably buy into the lie that “all roads lead to god” and that “all religions are the same.” I didn’t fault the people, because in their hearts, they meant well, but they act out of ignorance, like so many others do.

In our multicultural society, the name “god” has become a generic term to relate to any number of deities. Therefore, I have stopped using that term. That is why I use the name Yahweh when talking about the Lord, Elohim when I’m referring to the Father and Ruach Ha Kodesh when referring to the Holy Spirit. I can’t and won’t buy into the “multicultural god” lie that this world system wants to indoctrinate us with. I don’t expect others to do likewise and don’t fault people who still refer to Yahweh as “God,” because He is the only God, but I just want to affirm clearly who I know “God” to be, and He is Yahweh Elohim, the Lord God.

So, you can probably imagine my consternation when I hear people using terms like “karma,” “magic,” and other words that do not belong in or even near our faith, or our talk. What is Karma exactly. Karma is a process where the “universe” dictates that a person build up a good score or a bad score. This score determines if that person will be awarded or penalized in the next life. It is a tool of reincarnation. Those who truly believe in Karma really do not question what happens to them in life. For instance, a good Hindu realizes that when they suffer in this life, they quite possibly will live a better life in a life to come. They suffer and don’t question it because they feel that they will be rewarded in the next life. That is why, when I hear people here in the States talk about believing in Karma, and they are the first to complain when something goes wrong, they don’t even know what Karma is supposed to be. Basically, the term “karma” has been bastardized to mean “payback.” When a person says they’re experiencing “bad karma” they mean that they’re having a rough run of luck. When they come into money, have a baby or gain acceptance of people they state that they are having “good karma.” Sometimes, worldly

people will state that a person who is being a real ass is storing up bad karma, and that is more akin to what the premise of karma is all about.

So, what about a believer in Yeshua using the word, Karma. First of all, if you truly believe in Yeshua, you don't believe in reincarnation. Scripture clearly states that we live one life, and then there is a judgment. That's it, one life and only one life. When we die, and we know Yeshua and He knows us, we go to be with Him in heaven. There is something that is like "karma" in a believer's life, and it is called, "the law of reciprocity." Yeshua talked about when He talked about casting bread on the water, and it will return to you." What you give out, you will probably get back, whether it is good or bad, but it is either in this life, or in the glory to come, not in life after life after life after life. If you treat someone like garbage, it will probably happen to you. If you bless someone you will be blessed. Also, if you smoke cigarettes, you will most likely die from a disease related to smoking but if you live your life helping others you have a rich reward in heaven. **THERE IS NO KARMA AND BELIEVERS SHOULD NOT USE THAT WORD.** It is a word that is a doctrinal to Hinduism, Buddhism and other polytheistic eastern religions.

I've heard a lot of believers using the word "magic" too. ANYONE who has studied at all knows that this word has absolutely nothing to do with our faith in Yeshua. Look the definition in the dictionary:

A power that allows people (such as witches and wizards) to do impossible things by saying special words or performing special actions

And, what does scripture say about using such words, or celebrating Halloween, or getting into the fads and ways of this world?

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Some are probably saying that being yoked together with unbelievers means hanging out with them, fellowshiping with them. Well, it does mean that, but it also means doing the practices of the unbelievers. Doing with the world does is being yoked to the world. If you use the word “karma” I will automatically have inclination that you are either a Hindu, or a Buddhist, or you are a believer in Yeshua who doesn’t really know what to believe. If you use the term “magic,” it would not be wrong of me to wonder if you have a very shallow faith, or perhaps you’re a Wiccan who is trying to infiltrate my church. I mean, think about it. If I come up to you speaking with a southern accent, you would ask me if I came from the south, right? If I drove up to you in a high-end Mercedes sporting gold jewelry, you’d think that I had money, right? So, if you walked up to me, saying that you had bad karma that day, it would be acceptable for me to think that you were a Buddhist, or at least you were a believer in Yeshua who is very mixed up, right?

What I’m trying to convey here is that we need to look at everything that we do, everything that we say, and even everything that we think. If you can’t find it in scripture it isn’t from Yahweh. In everything that you do, hear or say, see if it aligns with scripture. Find scripture, text and verse for everything. Yahweh looks for humble and contrite people, and He looks for people who want to obey Him and honor Him. It’s time that we start taking our walk with Him serious. It’s time that we open up our eyes to see Him and open our ears to hear Him and open our lives to accept Him. The time of playing games is over. Very soon society is going to turn against believers in a very evil and evident way. Make yourself strong now. Exercise your faith so that in the hard days you will be able to stand. Forsake the things of this world and cleave to the things of Yahweh. Your earthly life and your eternal security will depend on how you walk with Yahweh through faith in Yeshua.