

# *The Pottering Fool*

*By: Larry DeLong*

A “pottering fool” is an expression I heard as a young man to describe an old man who went about doing menial tasks that accomplished nothing. The word “pottering” (not found in my Webster’s dictionary much to my surprise) means “a lack of intent or effort to make forward progress.”

Some people use the word “pottering” to describe a worthless hunting dog. Hunters can put up with a few faults in their dogs, but pottering is not one of them. They are not going to waste time and money in feeding a pottering dog. Pottering dogs have no initiative or desire to hunt but are only suitable to be given away as a pet for someone. Then, all that is required of such a dog is to lie at the front door and watch for the postman. They are content just to lie around waiting for someone to scratch their belly and spoon-feed them.

Sadly, the expression “pottering fool” aptly describes the leader of our nation. President Biden stumbles around; occasionally going here and there but accomplishing nothing constructive. It seems his main purpose is to appease the public by making an appearance (simply a photo op), or to discover a new ice cream shop. All we hear from him is what his writers tell him to say, and he often gets that wrong! If and when he does venture out on his own, we hear nothing but gibberish and broken thoughts. He does nothing for the good of the people he was elected to serve and is more of a liability than a leader.

Even more sad than Biden, many Christians are walking around as “pottering fools.” They may claim to believe there is a God, but their actions seldom, if ever, show it. These people have no desire to make forward progress in the faith. They never get excited or motivated to be about the Father’s business or apply themselves to spiritual growth. And, like the pottering dog, they expect and demand to be spoon-fed and petted. They are more of a liability than a benefit. They come to services to be seen of men and feel that they have served God, but that is the extent of their Christianity. These people are content to live in their own little world with no initiative to launch out on their own to pull their fair share of the load in the kingdom. They may never claim to believe the “faith only” doctrine, but they live it. The inspired writer of the Hebrew letter described the pottering Christian in Hebrews 5:12, “*For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.*” A pottering Christian will never grow to maturity. One of the facts of life is: if you are not growing, you are dying. We are to be “*doers of the word*” (James 1:21), for only he “*that doeth the will*” of the Father in Heaven will enter into the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 7:21). A pottering Christian does nothing for the good of the people he was born again to serve.

Find your place in the kingdom, select a task that will help you and others to grow spiritually, and then do it with thy might. Don’t be pottering around but be busy about the Father’s business.