



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

Sir, you’re smart; why do you believe this?

This was a question asked by a good friend of mine, and more importantly a brother in Christ (I will refer to him as Fred to conceal identity but also to avoid the repetition of saying “my friend”). Fred was in a conversation with the passenger next to him on an airplane when the question was asked. I do not remember what this gentleman’s occupation was, but do recall it was one which required a great deal of education; some sort of doctor I want to say. I do recall what his religion was, but that’s of no consequence in this article, sadly it was not faith in Christ.

About as soon as Fred made the statement “Sir you’re smart,” and then the subsequent question “why do you believe this?” he realized it may have sounded insulting. I can assure you that was not his intention. Rather it was a quick verbal reaction upon hearing the particulars of his airline neighbor’s faith. Before the topic found its way to religion my friend listened to the backstory of this gentleman’s aforementioned occupation and education. It was also clear during their talk that this man was well-spoken, and had good sense about him. It was also very clear he was deeply committed to what his religion.

Part of his downfall was his intelligence. Being one who made his living from a great deal of mental work he was accustomed to study and reaching conclusions. But he had never done this with the Bible. For some reason the Bible does not receive attention from those who would seem very capable of seeing and grasping the gospel of Jesus rather quickly. This must be part of the reason for the words of Jesus recorded in **Matthew 11:25** “**I thank You, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.**” Also, as written by Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:20** “**Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**”

Sometimes humanity just can’t get out of its own way because we think we know so much. Think Christianity is too complicated? You’re looking at man’s distortion of it, not what Jesus established. Think Christianity is too simple; doesn’t explain enough? You’re accepting humanism without considering God’s Word. Think Christianity is inconsistent? Eternal punishment is rather consistent - you’d better take another look. Don’t reason yourself away from Christ. There’s a good chance you’re too smart for that.

- **T.J. Bolen**, Gospel Preacher, West Columbia church of Christ, SC.

STAY CLEAN (SPIRITUALLY) IN 2015!

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1 January 4, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: **T.J. Bolen**— if I am lifted up.

PM: **T.J. Bolen**— I will be their God and they shall be My people,
2 Corinthians 6:11-18

“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet,
because that your **Faith** groweth exceedingly,
and the **CHARITY** of every one of you all **TOWARD EACH OTHER** aboundeth;”
• 2 Thessalonians 1:3

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PRACTICING
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
COME SEE!**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
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SERVICES

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Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- Prayers are requested for **Sam Soper** at the Twin City church who is recovering from surgery for a brain aneurysm.
- Remember **Margaret Herring**, who continues to suffer from many ills and has not been able to be with us, but is always mindful of the church.
- **Anna Porter** was moved from ICU at Richland to the Heart Hospital, Rm 6438 with multiple problems, but she remains alert and thankful for visits.
- Pray for **Tommy White** that he find a good place to live. We appreciate the work of brother Gamble and others helping to refurbish Tommy’s trailer.
- Remember **Dorothy Gray** and family, also **Grant Parks** and family.
- Remember the **Brisbon** family who are overcoming difficulties and also **Margie DeYoung** who is slowly failing, **Margaret Herring** who is also suffering many ills, also **Gwen Pittman**, **Keith Carter** and sister, **Margaret Gamble (Jones’ sister)**, **Floyd Richbourg** with knee problems, **Stephanie Rigney** with severe neck pain.
- Pray for all these, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers!** (1 John 5:15)

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:

but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." - Psalms 20:7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday, All are invited** to share a meal. **Men** will meet afterwards, much to consider, including: time of Wed. night assembly, and theme for this year, from Rev 3:2 "Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain."
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." - Hebrews 6:10

STAY CLEAN (SPIRITUALLY) IN 2015!

Little things are GREAT!

Sometimes we're overwhelmed by the size of a job we have to do. We wonder "**where do I start?**" Sometimes we spend so much time wondering, getting ready, and looking for the best thing to do, that we never do anything at all. Nothing gets done, and then we get even more discouraged and quit all together.

However, that's a problem we've made for ourselves. The Lord didn't lay such a great burden on us. He didn't tell us we had to do it all at once! He gave us time: "**If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me.**" - Luke 9:23

A little fruit, every once and awhile, is **so** much better than **no** fruit at all! Let's start right now. There are people we can call or visit. We can think and pray for one another. We can read a book, a chapter, a verse from the Bible. But if we don't plant the seed, how can we expect fruit to grow? If we don't sow, we can't reap. Seeds are little things that grow. So should our actions be.

Let's trust God. He didn't tell us **we** were responsible for the **increase**, that's His job. We're just to plant and water (1 Corinthians 3:6). Let's take care of the **little** things, and leave the GREAT things to God. Let's not be discouraged, remember what God told Paul: "**My grace is sufficient for thee: for MY strength is made perfect in WEAKNESS**" - 2 Corinthians 12:9

Heaven isn't something attained by just one action. The rich young ruler asked "What good thing shall I do, that I may inherit eternal life?". He had the wrong idea. Do you? Why do you think our life here is "Three score years"? We have to develop, to grow, to build. We can't just do one GREAT thing and then quit. The temple of the Jews was made with many stones. Laid up one at a time. So are we. It takes time and effort. Let's not be discouraged, our **little** efforts will add up! A kind word here, a visit or call there, a mention of the church and the bible to a neighbor. Noticing a small thing to be done, and taking care of it. These are good works which will bear eternal fruit:

"To them who by patient CONTINUANCE in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life." - Romans 2:7

Let's start the new year, honoring our God by **doing** the **little** things He asks.

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

Here's what to study in order to be sure you are pleasing to God.

NT BOOKS (27):	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Matthew	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Romans	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

Sun AM Sermon— If I am lifted up

Jesus was lifted up for us, it was one of the most important events in the life of the most important man to ever live on this earth. His death provides priceless blessings and we'd better 2x ourselves to ensure we understand what happened.

1. Are you looking in the right place to see Jesus lifted up?
2. Do you really know, that He was lifted up?
3. His power is unlimited, but can be rendered useless.

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me." John 12:32