

“It Doesn’t Make Sense!”

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- Nearly 3,700,000 persons graduate from high school each year.
- About 2,800,000 graduate from college each year
They are considered educated as measured by state and federal standards.
- Some of the things they learned, they will use nearly every day for the rest of their lives.
- Other things they learned, they will never use again.
- It is less about the information and more about learning how to learn. They will be taught for the rest of their lives.

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- By the time a student graduates from high school, they will have invested 15,120 hours in general education to function in the contemporary world
- Many will go on to college where they will spend another 1,920 hours studying in a particular subject to prepare for a specific career.
- 1Cor. 13:11 - “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

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“I understood as a child. My understanding was feeble and imperfect. I had narrow and incomplete views of things. I knew little. I fixed my attention on objects which I now see to be of little value. I acquired knowledge which has vanished, or which has sunk in the superior intelligence of riper years. I was affected as a child. I was thrown into a transport of joy or grief on the slightest occasions, which manly reason taught me to despise. I thought as a child; reasoned as a youth. I thought, argued, reasoned in a weak and inconclusive manner. My thoughts, plans, and argumentations were immature, and such as I now see to be short-sighted and erroneous.” *(Doddridge)*

“It Doesn’t Make Sense!”

- What things seem to make no sense apart from the wisdom and experience of faith and maturity?

One Can Be Rich Without Money

- Money should not be the primary or even secondary goal of Christians.
 - Prov. 23:4 - “Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!”
 - Matt. 19:23 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.’”
 - 1Tim. 6:9 - “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

One Can Be Rich Without Money

- Luke 12:19-21 - “And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’ 20 But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

One Can Be Rich Without Money

- It is possible to be rich and never have a large bank account or a fat wallet.
 - Prov. 13:7 - “There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.”
 - Rev. 2:9 - “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich)”
 - 2Cor. 6:10 - “...As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”
 - Phil. 4:11-12 - “Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”

One Can Be Rich Without Money

- Jesus gives us something money cannot buy: salvation from our sins and a home reserved in heaven.
 - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”
 - Acts 3:6 - “Then Peter said, Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”
 - Eph. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

One Can Be Rich Without Money

- Rich in faith
 - James 2:5 - “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”
- Rich in good works
 - 1Tim. 6:17-19 - “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”
- Labor for things money cannot buy.

The Way Up Is Down

- Worldly ambition is not a Biblical or honorable means to success.
 - Matt. 23:12 - "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
 - Psalm 138:6 - "Though the LORD is on high, Yet He regards the lowly; But the proud He knows from afar."
 - Prov. 16:9 - "A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."

The Way Up Is Down

- Humility means “low-lying, something on the ground” (Vines).
- Pride is the opposite of humility and defiles a man.
 - Mark 7:21-23 - “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

The Way Up Is Down

- Luke 18:9-14 - “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!” 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.’”

The Way Up Is Down

- Ez. 28:15-17 - “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. 16 By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.”

The Way Up Is Down

- Matt. 5:3 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- 1John 2:16-17 - “For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away...”
- Watch out for pride; we have to get down on our knees to ascend to heaven.

One Is Strong When He Is Weak

- Honorable and Biblical strength is measured differently.
 - 2Cor. 12:9-10 - “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
 - 2Cor. 11:30 - “If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity.”

One Is Strong When He Is Weak

- 1Cor. 1:27 - “But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.”
- Psalm 8:2 - “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.”

One Must Cry To Be Happy

- Divine and honorable wisdom reckons the seriousness of life under the sun.
 - Matt. 5:4 - “Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”
 - Psalm 126:5-6 - “Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.”

One Must Cry To Be Happy

- John 16:20 - “Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.”
- 2Cor. 1:7 - “And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.”
- Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

“It Doesn’t Make Sense!”

- “Preconceived, fixed notions can be more damaging than cannons.” *(Barbara W. Tuchman)*
- “Humanity has the fatal tendency to shape truth to our beliefs rather than our beliefs to the Truth.” *(Frank Turek)*
- “A written constitution is needed to protect values AGAINST prevailing wisdom.” *(Antonin Scalia)*

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1Cor. 1:25-29 - “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence.”