

“It Doesn’t Make Sense!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. 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.
 1. Some of the things they learned, they will use nearly every day for the rest of their lives.
 2. Other things they learned, they will never use again. This prompts many short sighted persons to ask, “Why should they have to learn something they will never use?”
 3. It is less about the information and more about learning how to learn. They will be taught for the rest of their lives, and as long as they are learning, they will become intelligent and successful. When they cease to learn anything new or already think they know it all that they cease to be intelligent and become foolish.
 4. By the time a student graduates from high school, they will have invested about 15,120 hours in understanding a wide variety of subjects, which are considered necessary for success in this world.
 5. Many will go on to college where they will spend another 1,920 hours studying in a particular subject area to prepare for a specific career.
- B. Graduating is not the end of learning by any means. As one works in his selected field, he constantly improves himself to hold on to the job and to advance through the ranks.
 1. As valuable as all this formal education is and as good as teachers may be, there are many things one learns that are never taught in those 17,040 hours of education.
 2. Some things they will learn as an adult may make no sense to right now. That’s okay for now; these things confuse a lot of older adults, too.
 3. 1Cor. 13:11 - “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)
- C. What things seem to make no sense apart from the wisdom and experience of faith and maturity?

I. ONE CAN BE RICH WITHOUT MONEY

- A. Ask any graduate as they walk from the stage with their diploma: “What is your goal in life?” the most common answer would be, “To make a lot of money.”
 1. They learn this from the materialistic world in which they live. Even Christians have made working for a living and providing for future security greater righteousness works than worshipping God.

2. This should not be the primary or even secondary goal of Christians.
 - a. Prov. 23:4; Matt. 19:23; 1Tim. 6:9; Luke 12:19-21
 3. If becoming rich is our goal, we are asking to walk a thorn-infested trail barefooted.
- B. Money is not purpose of our existence. It is possible to be rich and never have a large bank account or a fat wallet.
1. Prov. 13:7; Rev. 2:9; 2Cor. 6:10; Phil. 4:10
 2. Jesus gives us something money cannot buy: salvation from our sins and a home reserved in heaven.
 - a. 2Cor. 8:9; Acts 3:6; Eph. 1:3
 - b. James 2:5 - Rich in faith
 - c. 1Tim. 6:17-18 - Rich in good works
- C. Labor for the things money cannot buy.

II. THE WAY UP IS DOWN

- A. Many graduates are ready to climb the ladder to success. Some are so eager they attempt to skip rungs on the way. Others think they are entitled to ascend
1. They are taught that success is the ultimate good, that others' well-being is unimportant along the way, and that true success enables them to treat others with distance and disdain.
- B. Worldly ambition is not a Biblical or honorable means to success.
1. Matt. 23:12; Psalm 138:6; Prov. 16:9
- C. Humility means "low-lying, something on the ground" (Vines).
1. Pride is the opposite of humility and defiles a man - Mark 7:21-23
 2. Luke 18:9-14; Ez. 28:15-17; Matt. 5:3; 1John 2:16
- D. Watch out for pride; we have to get down on our knees to ascend to heaven.

III. ONE IS STRONG WHEN HE IS WEAK

- A. The world sees a strong man as one who has fought his way to the top and has held on to his position against all opposition.
1. "It is a dog-eat-dog world. Don't ever let them see you sweat. Get others before they get you."
- B. Honorable and Biblical strength is measured differently.
1. 2Cor. 12:9-10, 11:30; 1Cor. 1:27; Psalm 8:2

IV. ONE MUST CRY TO BE HAPPY

- A. The world loves a party. A high percentage of personal income of US citizens is spent on entertainment, humor, and other forms of escapism. Few want to think seriously about their spiritual life, let alone their after-life.
- B. Divine and honorable wisdom reckons the seriousness of life under the sun.
1. Matt. 5:4; Psalm 126:5-6; John 16:20; 2Cor. 1:7; Rev. 21:4

Conclusion: 1Cor. 1:25-29

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