

## **Dumber by the Day**

It will take little effort to convince anyone that our nation and society are on a decline intellectually. Just turn on the news or watch a clip of our President or Vice President and their efforts to speak in an intelligent and lucid manner. We have all seen Biden flub lines and name wrong countries, but this should be further down on the list. Why may you ask? The President was under investigation for mishandling classified documents. The “Special” Council that was investigating him, said he should not face criminal charges on mishandling classified documents as they described him as an old man with trouble remembering dates! This committee has surpassed the President in stupidity. He is not competent to face charges but has the grey matter to run a country? “No worries, Joe, play with the nice nuclear weapons and leave the paperwork alone.” As far as Vice President Harris, our southern border is as secure as is her application to Mensa. She is so dumb; she sold her car for gas money.

This is not about deriding our politicians; it is about the sad state of our nation’s mind set. And even worse, those in the church. We did a study a few years back called “You Can’t Fix Stupid,” and this may be a time for a re-visit and a few updates.

“Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice. One may protest against the evil; it can be exposed and, if need be, can be prevented by use of force. Evil always carries within itself the germ of its own subversion in that it leaves behind in human beings at least a sense of unease. Against stupidity we are defenseless.

Neither protests nor the use of force accomplish anything here; reasons fall on deaf ears; facts that contradict one’s prejudgment simply need not be believed- in such moments, the stupid person even becomes critical- and when facts are irrefutable, they are just pushed aside as inconsequential, as incidental. In all this, the stupid person, in contrast to the malicious one, is utterly self-satisfied and, being easily irritated, becomes dangerous by going on the attack. For that reason, greater caution is called for when dealing with a stupid person than with a malicious one. Never again, will we try and persuade the stupid person with reasons, for it is senseless and dangerous.”- Dietrich Bohnhoffer (1906-1945) “On Stupidity”- Letters and Papers from Prison

How many of us have run into a conversation with a stupid person? I do daily if I talk to myself, but there are folks out there that are even more challenging. As we just read in the essay, even when you show someone scripture, they will refuse to

acknowledge it and cling to whatever lie they have been living. Most do not keep the true Sabbath, so from square one, they are walking blindfolded. God has a few things to say about being stupid.

**Proverbs 12:1-** “Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates correction *is* stupid.”

There is a glitch right there. Someone who loves instruction is open to the truth and is open to correction. The converse is one who is so full of pride, they cannot accept any constructive criticism without becoming defensive. That is okay, we need not be concerned. God has His way of cracking the tough outer shell of the prideful if they are truly called. Trials, storms, calamity, or any combination can bring about the attention God is aiming to get from each of us. Health or finance issues? Employment or family troubles? The first place we need to look for a solution is in the mirror and our relationship with God. Is there something we are overlooking, or we fail to see? Great advice for “other” people but never for ourselves, right? God does not miss anything.

Never argue with stupid people. They will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience. - Mark Twain

Stupid, by definition according to the on-line dictionary is an adjective, having or showing a great lack of *intelligence* or *common sense*. Now do not confuse stupidity with ignorance. Ignorant by definition (same source) is an adjective, lacking *knowledge* or *awareness* in general. I believe the primary difference between the two words is that ignorance can be fixed, stupid cannot.

Also, do not confuse education with intelligence either. I have known numerous folks with more degrees than a thermometer who butcher the Queen's English and could not pour urine out of a boot if the instructions were on the heel. My grandfather always said, "you can have all the book smarts in the world, but it isn't worth a thing without common sense."

**Jeremiah 4:22-** "For My people *are* foolish; they have not known Me; they are stupid children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

**Jeremiah 10:14-15-** "Every man is stupid for lack of knowledge; every refiner is put to shame by the graven image; for his molten image is a lie, and there is no breath in them. They *are* vanity, the work of delusion; in the time of their judgment, they shall perish."

There is a saying that “you can’t fix stupid.” We have all heard it and on occasion, we have all felt we have achieved status in this category of people by committing an act completely devoid of any common sense. Making occasional mistakes does not make one stupid.

Lack of knowledge and no understanding are major factors in being stupid.

Remember, ignorance is different from being stupid. We can fix our own ignorance by yielding to God completely. Not yielding completely to God, now that is stupid. I would like to share another article we covered several years ago that identifies why we cannot fix stupid. It is from the Chicago Tribune, written by Dave Rutter titled, “Science Finally Proves You Can’t Fix Stupid.”

In reviewing highlights from his article, he reviews a study conducted by a Cornell University psychologist, David Dunning. “He’s spent 15 years studying stupid people (must have been easy with a never-ending source...). Ever since 1999, when he offered the original theory and research, Dunning has been advancing the cause of Stupid Study, the regime of inquiry that assesses how totally brick-headed people are, and how little any of them realize it.”

“Dunning’s premise based on thousands of interviews seems to demonstrate that dumb people don’t – or rather can’t – tell they are stupid. In fact, the very factors

that impose human incompetence also make them incapable of realizing it. Dumb people – or rather, for more scientific clarity, the profoundly really numbskulled – never get less stupid. As noted, philosopher and Scotch drinker Ron White suggests: "You can't fix stupid."

“People who insist they never make the same mistake twice are the ones who always make the same mistake twice. And, in fact, never stop making the same mistake.”

“Conversely, Dunning shows that the very lack of competence in some people is the same characteristic that prevents them from *realizing* their stupidity. As far as I can tell, this explains most former brothers-in-law as a general class of people.”

"What's curious is that, in many cases, incompetence does not leave people disoriented, perplexed, or cautious," he has written in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. "Instead, the incompetent are often blessed with an inappropriate confidence, buoyed by something that feels to them like knowledge. A whole battery of studies ... have confirmed that people who don't know much about a given set of cognitive, technical or social skills tend to grossly overestimate their prowess and performance, whether it's grammar, emotional intelligence, logical reasoning, firearm care and safety, debating or financial knowledge."

Dunning also says the inductive application of this reasoning is also true. If you doubt your own wisdom, if you worry about being a witless dope, then chances are you are far smarter than you realize. Doubting yourself is the first sign of cognitive self-awareness.

While that fact alone does not prove your smartness, it's a sign you're not stupid. You take good news wherever you can find it.”

Hopefully, this will ease the burden in our minds that we are not stupid. We may be clumsy or forgetful, but we are not stupid. At the time we first shared this article, we were coming out of the Covid-19 “*plandemic*.” I think the rate of decline of our nation has increased since then as the inmates have completely taken over the asylum. The condition of “Blue States” like California and New York have gotten so bad towards their citizens, there is an exodus fleeing these locations back to the United States. Homeless and illegal aliens have more rights than residents. In New York, “squatters” can take over an unoccupied house and the owners must still pay the electric and water bills or face fines! Even evicting the squatters is difficult. How is that for dumb? It is beyond dumb; it is just evil. We are witnessing scripture coming to fruition.

**Isaiah 5:20-24-** “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Who justify the wicked for a bribe and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, and the flame burns up the chaff; their root shall be like rottenness, and their blossoms shall go up like dust because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts and despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel.”

It is no surprise. We were warned, we were foretold. God has been long since removed from our society. He has been “edited for content” by so called “Christian” churches who want to check in once a week, on the wrong day, and to do away with all of His “Jewish” Holy Days so a better buck can be turned on man-made holidays.

Telling God to take a walk is nothing new. Nothing new under the sun, right Andrea?



**Ecclesiastes 1:8-10-** “All things *are* full of labor; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. That which has been *is* that which shall be; and that which has been done *is* that which shall be done; and *there is* nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing *of* which it may be said, “See, this *is* new”? It has already been in days of old, which were before us.”

There are numerous acts of collective stupidity in the Bible.

**Mark 5:1-17-** “And they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And as soon as He had left the ship, there met Him from out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one had the power to restrain him even with chains; For he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains had been torn to pieces by him, and the fetters had been shattered; and no one had the strength to subdue him. And continually, night and day, in the mountains and in the tombs, he was screaming and cutting himself with stones. But when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of God the Most High? I adjure You by God, do not torment me." For He was saying to it, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man." And He asked it, "What is your name?" And it answered, "My name is Legion, because we are

many." And it begged Him again and again that He would not send them out of the country. Now near the mountain, there was a large herd of swine feeding; And all the demons pleaded with Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, so that we may enter into them." Then Jesus immediately permitted them to go. And the unclean spirits went out of the man and entered into the swine; and the herd stampeded down the steep slope into the sea (now they were about two thousand), and they all drowned in the sea. And those who were feeding the swine fled in fear and reported it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what it was that had been done. And they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been possessed by demons, the one who had the Legion, sitting and clothed and of a sound mind; and they were afraid. Then those who had seen it reported to them what had happened to the one who had been possessed by demons, and the things concerning the swine. And they began to urge Him to depart from their borders. **(Matt. 8:28-34, Luke 8:26-39)**

This scripture always made me shake my head. How dumb can you get? A whole community going out to tell Jesus to basically "get lost, we don't want you here" after hearing and or witnessing the miracle He had just performed? The region's citizens should be grateful for this miracle, but the people only see a loss of income from the death of their animals. Seeking material prosperity at the expense of true life, these men beg Jesus to leave. Preferring pigs and profit over The Savior and

salvation. Were they afraid of Him or what they would have to give up? Sounds like today's society where an entire nation has told God to take a hike and where being dumb is considered a virtue. Men can be women and women can be men, God forbid if they are challenged on their mental disorder. There was a woman recently kicked out of Planet Fitness and had her membership cancelled for challenging a man in the ladies' locker room shaving. There were adolescent girls present when she did. She complained to the management, and they gave her the boot! Dumber by the day for sure.

**Deuteronomy 22:5-** “Anything that pertains to a man shall not be worn by a woman, neither shall a man put a woman's garment on. For all that do so *are* abominable to the LORD your God.”

I wonder what ensemble these freaks will wear when Christ returns? A mountain they are trying to crawl under...

One of the greatest collective acts of stupidity was the ancient Nation of Israel. Some of their actions exemplified dumbness. They had been crying out in bondage for some four hundred years and finally their liberation came. God sent Moses to deliver them. Throughout the Book of Exodus, they witnessed the many plagues

against Egypt; frogs, locusts, boils, death of the first born and so on. Even after the fled, God's miracles continued. The pillar of fire, the parting of the Red Sea and manna falling from heaven. They forgot the four hundred years they spent in bondage. All of this and they still rebelled against God and had Aaron fashion a calf of gold! Definitely dumber by the day.

**Exodus 22:7-9-** “And the LORD said to Moses, “Go! Get you down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made them a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These *are* your gods, O Israel, who have brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’ “And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it *is* a *stiff-necked people*.”

But God managed that rebellion swiftly through His servant Moses.

**Exodus 32:26-28-** “Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who *is* on the LORD’S side? *Come* to me.” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves to him. And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel, ‘Each man put his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and

kill each one his brother, and each one his companion, and each one his neighbor.’

“And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And there fell of the people that day about three thousand men;”

A pity our present justice system is not as fast.

“Stiff-necked people” is fitting for so many today as well. So full of pride or just to plain dumb to see it. Chalk up the trials and storms to plain old bad luck. “God cannot be trying to tell me anything.” But rebellion has continued since the Garden of Eden, which is no surprise either.

**Isaiah 30:1-** “Woe *to* the rebellious children,” says the LORD, “who carry out a plan, but not of Me; and who form an alliance, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin;”

**Ezekiel 2:3-4-** “And He said to me, “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation, who have rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me, even unto this very day. For they are impudent children, and hard of heart. I am sending you to them; and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’”

Here we are two thousand years later, and we are still telling The Lord, “Go away.” In 200+ years, we went from an undeveloped wilderness to the number one industrial nation on Earth, founded on Biblical principles. In just a few decades, we have removed God from our schools, our government and from our churches and look where we are! In rejecting Christ, the people of the Gadarenes rejected the One Who sent Him.

**Luke 10:16-** “The one who hears you hears Me; and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and the one who rejects Me rejects Him Who sent Me.”

**John 13:20-** “Truly, truly I tell you, the one who receives whomever I send is receiving Me; and the one who receives Me is receiving Him Who sent Me.”

The church is doing the same thing. I mentioned last week or so that I had been sharing scripture with a former co-worker who is a full blown “Sunday Churcher.” We had a discussion on going to heaven and what happens when we die. He used the “go to verse” of the thief on the cross. Even when sharing all of the Old Testament scriptures pertaining to death and heaven, the lights were on, but nobody was at home. The same thing happened when I shared the Sabbath scriptures with the Pastor of a local church. His response of, “we choose to honor Jesus by worshipping Him on Sunday.” Stiff-necked or plain dumb?

It makes you wonder if they are reading the same Bible. Jesus kept the Sabbath as God's 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment tells us all to do. ***He never changed it.*** We have Constantine and the Catholic Church to thank for that. They reject God and His Commandments for tradition (**Matthew 15:3, Mark 7:8-9, 13**). Even posting scripture on several blog comments, there is usually no response. Just the sounds of silence, crickets, and tumbleweeds...they cannot refute the Word of God.

**Titus 1:8-16-** “But hospitable, a lover of good, sound minded, just, holy, self-controlled, Holding steadfastly to the faithful word, according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ*, so that he may be able both to encourage with sound doctrine and to convict those who are gainsayers. For there are many rebellious and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the circumcision party*, Whose mouths must be stopped; who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain. One from among them, *even one* of their own prophets, said, “Cretans *are* always liars, *and* evil, wild beasts, *and* lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. For this reason, you *must* rebuke them severely, that they may be sound in the faith; Not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men, which turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things *are* pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing *is* pure; rather, both their minds and consciences are defiled. They personally profess to know God, but

in *their* works, they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient, and reprobate unto every good work.”

It is time to turn over some tables...

Jesus always did the will of God the Father, He never preached about Himself. He did not seek glory for Himself.

**John 5:30-31**- “I have no power to do anything of Myself; but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father, Who sent Me. If I bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true.”

God’s word is sharper than any two-edged sword. It is of no private interpretation.

**Hebrews 4:9-12**- “There remains, therefore, Sabbath-keeping for the people of God. For the one who has entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his works, just as God *did* from His own *works*. We should be diligent therefore to enter into that rest, lest anyone fall after the same example of disobedience. For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and *is* able to discern *the* thoughts and intents of *the* heart.”



**2 Peter 1:19-21-** “We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and *the* morning star ***arises in your hearts***; Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture originated as anyone’s own *private* interpretation; Because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but the holy men of God spoke as they were moved by *the* Holy Spirit.”

“***Arises in your hearts.***” So much emphasis is placed on the heart throughout the Bible. This is the place to stand against being dumb. It begins here. You may think of yourself as an intellect, God may think otherwise. Wisdom must be sought at the source. God has imparted His wisdom to us through His Word and His Spirit. He gave us His only Son. For lack of better terms, wisdom is key to not being stupid. Most people choose to remain stupid rather than seek wisdom. That is just dumb too.

**Proverbs 2:1-12-** “My son, if you will receive my words and treasure up my commandments within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding; Yea, if you cry after knowledge *and* lift up your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver and search *for* her as for hidden treasures, Then you shall understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

For the LORD gives wisdom; out of His mouth *comes* knowledge and understanding. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly. He keeps the paths of *right* judgment and preserves the way of His saints. Then you shall understand righteousness and judgment and equity, every good path. Wisdom shall enter into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasing to your soul; Discretion shall preserve you and, understanding shall keep you, To deliver you from the way of the evil *man*, from the man who speaks wicked things,”

I watched a sermon Fred Coulter gave a couple of weeks ago where he admonished someone seeking to use A.I. for sermons. In his response, he nailed it and made it quite clear; they must come from your heart. God will not pour out His Holy Spirit onto a rock with a heartbeat. He will not waste His Spirit on a hard-hearted person. Just as we are not to cast pearls before swine.

**Matthew 7:6-** “Do not give that which *is* holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn around and tear you in pieces.”

**Romans 8:27-28-** “And the One Who searches the hearts comprehends what the strivings of the Spirit *are* because it makes intercession for *the* saints according to *the will of* God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

We may not have witnessed any miracles of a Red Sea significance (Grandchildren to me are the best example of miracles) but “blessed are the ones who have not seen but have believed.”- **John 20:29**.

While we may not be able to fix “stupid,” we can correct ignorance. We can also *cease being dumb*. The word of God filling our hearts will filter into our minds and our actions. The knowledge gained will increase our wisdom and understanding. As we draw closer to God, He will impart more of His Spirit into us. It really is that simple. It may not be time for so many to come to that place of accepting and living God’s word. Their time *will* come. For us, that time is now. We *will* be prepared to share with those He sends our way and should the trumpet sound and the sky crack, we will be ready. Onward to Passover! Amen.

