

It Is Written

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The Perfect Fool

By Steve Klein

No one likes to be thought of as a fool. Yet, according to the Bible, the world is full of fools. The Scriptures even describe a number of ways to become a fool.

Here are seven ways to be a fool:

1. Doubt the resurrection. The resurrection is a difficult concept for mortals to understand. Some find this reason enough to doubt that there will be a resurrection. By doubting the resurrection, they have an excuse to live in pleasure and moral foolishness. The apostle Paul observed that "if the dead do not rise" we could well say, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!" (1 Corinthians 15:32). Notice that doubting the resurrection leads to poor direction in this life. Given the fact that Christ rose from the dead, it is foolish to doubt the resurrection just because we do not understand how a dead person can come back to life. Paul notes that "someone will say, 'How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?'" He calls the person who would ask such doubt-filled questions a "foolish one" (1 Corinthians 15:35-36).

2. Build your life around worldly accomplishments and prosperity. In Luke 12, Jesus told of a rich man who was so prosperous that he had to build new barns to store all of his stuff. The rich man said to himself, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." "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?'" (Luke 12:19-20).

3. Despise instruction. "Fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). They think they know it all, when in fact they have a lot to learn. "But fools hate knowledge" (Proverbs 1: 22). This kind of fool is commonly found in the home in the form of a teenager who will not listen to his father's instructions. "A fool despises his father's instruction" (Proverbs 15:5).

4. Enjoy starting arguments. "Any fool can start a quarrel," and so every fool seems to enjoy doing so (Proverbs 20:3). Truly, "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows" (Proverbs 18:6).

5. Make light of sin. Fools mock at sin (Proverbs 14:9). Sin is funny to fools. They don't see the seriousness of it. So they laugh at filthy jokes, take pride in drunken parties, and brag about getting away with breaking laws or committing sexual immorality. "To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom" (Proverbs 10:23).

6. Act like you're always right and everyone else is wrong. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Proverbs 12:15). "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart" (Proverbs 18:2). "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26).

7. Act as if you will never have to answer to God. Fools commit many sins, "Yet they say, The LORD does not see." They are only kidding themselves. The God who created the eyes and the ears sees and hears all. "Understand, you senseless among the people; and you fools, when will you be wise? He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?" (Psalms 94:7-9).

The number seven is thought to be the number of completion or perfection. If a person is a fool in all of the seven ways listed above, I suppose that would make him the perfect fool. Hopefully, we can all see the folly of that.

"The Only One's Going To Heaven"

By Greg Gwin

"I've heard that you 'Church of Christ' people think that you are the only ones going to heaven. Is that true?" We are often asked this question, and we appreciate the opportunity to explain what we believe. Would

you please give careful consideration to these simple points from the Bible?

1) It is important to remember that God is the judge of eternal things. Our personal opinions do not matter. What you think, what we think, what some religious denomination teaches -- none of this matters. In fact, Jesus said that many who think they are saved will be lost in the last day (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). The Scriptures will be the standard of judgment (John 12:48).

2) The New Testament clearly teaches who will be saved. It describes a simple 'plan of salvation' that any accountable person can understand and obey. We must hear the truth (Rom 10:17), believe the truth (Hebrews 11:6), repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess our faith in Jesus (Romans 10:10), and be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). If we remain faithful, we are promised a reward in heaven (Revelation 2:10). This is not a human dogma or creed. It is the plain and simple teaching of God's Word. If a person obeys these commands they will be saved. If they do not, they will be lost. It is just that simple. The only ones going to heaven are the ones who submit to God's will and obey His commands.

3) Now, where does the church of Christ figure into all of this? Acts 2:47 tells us that those who are saved are added to the church by the Lord. When you do what you must do to be saved (see point #2) then you are automatically added to that church which you read about in the Bible. This is not some man-made denomination. It is the church that belongs to Jesus -- it is the "church of Christ" (Romans 16:16). Therefore, the answer is yes -- you must be a member of that church to go to heaven. Do you see it?

Ten Rules For Misunderstanding The Bible

By Doy Moyer

1. Tell yourself you cannot understand it, and that it is impossible for everyone to understand it alike (Eph. 5:17).
 2. Think on a carnal level (Rom. 8:5,6; Col. 3:12; I Cor. 2:14f).
 3. Make up your mind about what you believe before you ever open the Bible (Rom. 10:3).
 4. Take every Scripture out of context and apply to whatever you wish (II Pet. 3:16).
 5. Never look at parallel verses. It might ruin your applications.
 6. Do not bring together all verses dealing with a particular subject. That would be fatal to misunderstanding.
 7. Never ask for help or accept anyone's offer to study with you (Acts 8:30-31).
 8. Be "picky" and "choosey"; that is, pick and choose whatever you like and disregard the rest.
 9. Take the attitude that says "It doesn't matter what you believe." That way you'll have an excuse when you find a passage you don't like (II John 9).
 10. Finally, accept your feelings and not the Bible as the final authority. Decide that you are not going to do what the Bible says if you don't want to (Rom. 10:16; John 12:48).
- If you follow these rules, you'll be sure to misunderstand and misapply the Bible. There is a catch, however: be ready to lose your soul (II Pet. 3:16; II Thess.1:7-9).