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President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington
Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson
Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett
Contributors: Tiffany Johnson,
Randy Spaugh, and Sherry Worthington
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A Census of Idiots

Dr. T. D. Worthington

Were you counted in the last census? I am not talking about the one held back during the course of last year, I am referring to the one held on back in November, on Election Day.

How is the United States such a world superpower, and yet Americans seem to be so stupid? On election day millions of Americans walked into voting booths and voted for socialist politicians intent on destroying our republic. Of course, even before that low point, evidence of American stupidity has been in abundance for decades. But this election was something like a convention of American idiots. Actually, it was a census of the exact number of idiots we have in this country. How do people even end up like this? Why over the past few decades has America been breeding these people?

As a theologian, I am speaking in the Greek, of course. You see, to the Greeks, “*idiot*” was the ultimate term of scorn. Idiots were

some of the most contemptible people in classical society. Why? To them, an idiot was “*a person consumed only with self-interest.*” And to the Greeks, the originators of democracy, nobody was more dangerous to society than an idiot.

Their reasoning went like this. Should enough of a society be consumed solely with self-interest, then the society would soon cease to be a democracy. People only concerned with themselves could not look out for any common good or shared interest. They couldn’t see into the future to analyze the long-term consequences of their actions. Nor can they exercise any of the following virtues: courage, compassion, truth, beauty, grace, generosity, kindness, humility, all of which are focused on the long-term well-being of others.

So, what will happen to such a society? The Greeks reasoned that when a society hit a threshold of idiots, it would soon lapse into poverty and then into tyranny. To

the Greeks, idiots were so self-absorbed they were incapable of self-government. Since idiots would be too lazy or foolish to provide things for themselves, they’d soon try to exploit others to provide for them. Society would degenerate as each person sought to exploit the next. Such a society would lapse into cruelty, hostility, anger, stupidity, ignorance, and folly. It would ultimately implode, or self-destruct. At that point, a dictator or king would come along who would prey on all those fears. He would offer solutions to their problems, the type of solutions that would appeal to idiots, and democracy would flash out of existence.

The Greeks were pretty smart. What I just shared with you, even thousands of years later, is still more intelligent than what passes for modern economics and political science today. But does their theory still work in the 21st century? You only have to look at America. This election does

something remarkable. It gives us an exact head count of American idiots. Now, I do not say that as an insult, but as an observation, in the classical sense, of course. These are people apparently consumed with the narrowest definition of self-interest possible.

Think about the Covid-idiots for a moment. They have wrecked our economy, further made a debacle of our inferior educational system, exploited the medical profession, and they have kept such crummy records, we still don't know whether we handled the Covid pandemic wisely or not.

Then we have their close cousins, the socialized healthcare-idiots. The ones who believe that those who have a vested interest in our death, should be in charge of our health. I'm still trying to figure that one out.

Next, we have the gun control idiots. Those who often speak behind the protection of their own personal body guards who say we should not have the right to defend ourselves, regardless of what that pesky second amendment says. They also believe the world would be less violent with a weakened military and without the police.

Then, we have the gay rights idiots. They cannot seem to understand that if the lifestyle they promote were embraced by everyone, the human race would be wiped out in a few decades.

There are so many kinds of American idiots that I've barely scratched the surface. There are those who want open borders,

abortion, \$15.00 minimum wage, and a return to depending on others for our energy. *But to the American idiot, freedom means the same thing it did to the Greek idiot: the right to do whatever you please, no matter how harmful it is to anyone else, yourself, your kids, your city, country, or your neighbors.*

A few months ago we saw where the American idiot was authorized by liberal politicians to go out and set fire to their own neighborhood. That's dumb enough, but what is even dumber is that they actually thought it was a smart thing to do! It's impossible to explain just how the American idiot ends up thinking the bizarre things they come up with. It must take some effort. I guess, the internet reinforces it, the educational system teaches it, and the media promotes it. If it wasn't so scary you could almost laugh. Maybe the world is laughing because in most of the rest of the world, such people don't seem to exist, at least in such big numbers.

In the middle east, for example, a culture not always marked by brilliance, you can literally buy machine guns or even grenade launchers at the market. But nobody is shooting up their *own* schools or shopping centers. Maybe we should send them a few of our excess idiots just to liven things up a bit.

You see, the Greeks were right when it came to assessing idiots and what might happen once their numbers reached critical mass. What is a nation to do when this many people crave their own destruction? The good news is, they tend to self-destruct. Idiots are martyrs. ISIS and the Taliban are happy blowing

themselves up. American idiots are happy destroying the principles that gave them the freedom to be idiots in the first place. The problem is, a lot of us may go down with the idiots as they self-destruct.

Although the Bible talks a lot about fools, nowhere does it give a simple and concise definition of what makes a person an absolute idiot. However, we can begin to piece together a definition by looking at some of the different characteristics that the word of God lists as the hallmarks of foolish people.

First, a fool does not seek wisdom. One of the hallmarks of the wise man is that he listens to correction and seeks understanding. By contrast, the fool spurns correction and makes no attempt to gain understanding.

“A fool hath no delight in understanding.” (Proverbs 18:2)

“As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.” (Proverbs 26:11)

Idiots are convinced of their own righteousness and their own understanding. They are less



concerned with learning from others and more concerned with showing how much they think they already know. They often don't even learn from their own mistakes, blaming others when things go badly. The wise person has learned to recognize that there is much they can still learn.

Second, a fool is uncontrolled.

The foolish person does not keep a check on their desires, but instead they give full vent to them. The foolish person is characterized by their anger, by their lusts, and by their greed. They show no control over these things.

“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.” (Proverbs 29:11)

The fool quickly gives vent to their anger rather than trying to restrain it. This is, in part, why fools tend to be people who quickly fly off the handle. They only see what is right in front of them. They have learned that by giving vent to their anger, they often get what they want. They don't think about how expressing that anger might affect their relationships and their situation in the long term. A fool is uncontrolled, not seeing much beyond their immediate situation.

Third, a fool does not submit to God. This is at the core of foolishness. One of the most famous passages in this regard is found in the book of Psalms.

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.” (Psalm 14:1)

This is not merely saying that the person who claims not to believe in God is a fool (*though it certainly is saying that*), it is actually going deeper. Even a person who claims outwardly to believe in God, can say in their hearts that there is no God. Such a person does not submit their lives to God's plan, they continue to go their own way. They may outwardly claim that God exists, but they live as though He doesn't.

Notice that the characteristics of a fool have to do with their character as a person and not with their intelligence, wealth, or position in life. There are people who are very smart who are also very foolish. Similarly, it doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, both can be fools, and both can also be wise. The person who is educated can be a fool just as easily as the person who is not. And the lowest man in the company can be just as foolish or just as wise as the person sitting in the corner office. We must not judge a person to be a fool on the basis of these external characteristics. A fool is a fool because of what they choose to be on the inside.

If you're like me, as you look at these descriptions, you realize that these characteristics are sometimes descriptive of us. Every one of us acts foolishly at times. I can even play the idiot occasionally. Hopefully, this is not the pattern of our life, but rather a temporary condition. Dealing with foolish people is a part of life. You might think that putting an idiot in leadership would rarely happen. Sadly, it happens all too often. Maybe part of the problem is that often idiots know how to make

themselves look good. Consorting with a compliant media, they will blame others for their failures, and take credit for the accomplishments they had nothing to do with. Soon everyone will be convinced that they are gifted.

Finally, the temptation is for us to look down on idiots, and to think of ourselves as superior to them. Of course, such an attitude is not wise. We should be respectful and loving, even if we are not shown that same love and respect in return.

We like to think of idiots as lovable characters who make us laugh and entertain us, but the biblical truth is that foolishness isn't a laughing matter. Idiots are on a self-destructive path, and the sad part is they don't even realize it. Fools can not only hurt themselves, but they usually hurt others in the process. Idiots have even destroyed countries in the past, and if left unchecked, they will destroy America.

So, again I say, the Greeks were right. There is no greater curse for a society than a surplus of idiots, and no greater danger to a nation than it crossing a threshold of having an excess of idiots. So, what are we to do? Make sure you are a Christian and then make it your concern to always walk in wisdom. Next, we must pray for the lost, for those in darkness, and especially for those in leadership. Idiots need prayer, and *there is a lot of them*.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry for over forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries and Christian Bible College.



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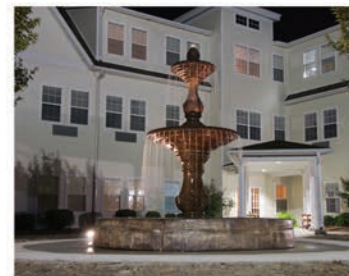


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Artist Spotlight - Jackson Heights

In the 1980's, the Dixie Melody Boys from Kinston, North Carolina, were a pure Southern Gospel, four-part harmony quartet. While they were very successful in the business, Ed O'Neal, his son Allen, and Kent Humphrey, along with other group members had a desire to make a musical change. They all liked the style of that day's country music, but as Christians did not embrace the lyrics or lifestyle. So with the help of several producers and song writers they created the sound that launched ***The DMB Band***, known today as Jackson Heights. That sound included songs you may remember such as "Last Train to Glory", "Good Ole Boys", and "Run Little Brother".

While the band worked with many acclaimed producers and continued to travel for 8 years, the financial burden of keeping the group on the road eventually became too great. In September of 1988, the band called it quits, and all members moved on to pursue other interests.

In October 2012, after 25 years apart, ***The DMB Band*** gathered for a reunion in Kinston, NC; the place where it all began. The guys had a wonderful time renewing old friendships and reminiscing

about their days on the road, playing the music they loved. Friends and fans showed up anxious to hear the Christian country music ***The DMB Band*** had pioneered. It was quickly evident the message and classic music of ***The DMB Band*** was still of interest.

With Ed O'Neal still touring with his southern gospel quartet, The Dixie Melody Boys, the name ***The DMB Band*** became a little confusing. So in 2015, the guys decided to make a name change, and the name became ***Jackson Heights***, named after a small community each of the band members lived in back in the 1980's.

The band is currently busy touring and singing for the Lord. In fact, they have a concert coming up with Jason Crabb on Saturday, May 15th, at the Greene County Wellness Center in Snow Hill, N.C. Tickets are currently available online at <https://www.bandsintown.com> or at Rouse's Restaurant in Snow Hill. More information is also available at 252-560-2118. A complete list of their tour dates is available as well as downloads of their previous recordings on their website, www.jacksonheightsmusic.com.

Difficult Days

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

Parents have a hard time these days. I am glad I didn't have to raise my children in this day with all aspects of life at their fingertips. If we allowed them, our children could have any type of knowledge, any time they want, without the wisdom to handle it. And now that house phones have become cell phones, it is even more dangerous. Hopefully, most of their phones do not have internet access. However, that is not the trend that I see.

Parents are also working long hours and then picking up their children from the daycare program or from their grandparent's house. Perhaps they have been alone all afternoon until Mom and Dad get home. The family meals are eaten in front of the TV, and the children are oblivious to the family unit. Parents are laden with guilt because they feel they are never with their children, and this leads to many discipline issues. Moms and Dads do not discipline since they have

very little time with their children. What has happened to our families? To make ends meet, many times there is no choice but for both parents to be working long hours and continue working when they get home. I know some parents who have made many sacrifices to be able to be home more and devote themselves to the home. Even with the obstacles, some parents are still making their children a priority. This involves keeping late hours due to obligations from the job or completing household responsibilities. The list of things to do is endless.

There is way too much stress in our society. The hard-working people, which are harder to find these days, are carrying a weight on their shoulders that was not meant to be. We were all meant to work and take care of our own families. Now, we are working to feed our families and two more families that are not working. Remember the Scripture in **II Thessalonians 3:10**. *“...that if any would not work, neither*

should he eat.” Taxes are way too high and the dollar's value is way too low. In the 1950s, a family could live off of one income and now it is difficult to survive on two. This should not be.

This puts us too busy to see what is around us. Mothers had to go to work to help support the families. It is perfectly fine if a woman wants to work outside the home, but it should be a choice. My mom worked outside the home, but we were always at the forefront of her mind. I have worked outside the home since my children began school. I was fortunate because my ministry was children, so I was able to be around mine throughout the day.

Many women find themselves working long hours, picking up the children, then getting supper and baths, then before they know it, it is bedtime. They squeeze in the homework and quality time in the minutes in between. Families have to make this difficult choice.

Some families have this schedule because they wanted a newer car or a nicer home. That is not the parents I am talking about. They have accrued massive debt in order to have material possessions. These things should never come ahead of what is good for their families. We don't need to fool ourselves into thinking it is better to give things to our children than to give of ourselves. Besides, material possessions can ruin our children.

As a child, my mom handled the inside of the house and my dad handled the outside of the house. He was usually the one that helped me with my math, and Mom helped me with my English as needed. Of course, when Algebra came along, I was on my own. Dad worked later in the day, but my mom was at home when we were home most of the time.

Both of my parents loved me very much, and I know that nothing would ever change that. My dad was an unusual man. I was as assured of his love as I was my mother's. It was just a different kind of love. Both of them loved me unconditionally.

In *Science Daily*, it said the mother is more associated with the softer side of love and the sharing of feelings and identifying problems. They are more observant of the inner feelings of the child. It said the mother's love is boundless. Whereas the father is more concerned with the harder side of the child's development. He guides them to be stronger in mind and through their education and career. The father is also more willing to let the child learn through the

school of hard knocks. He also is the protector of the family, but a child feels more secure with his mother.

When I read the scientific definition of the differences in the mother's love and the father's, I realized that these were generalities. In my personal life, my father was more tenderhearted than most men, yet he was still very manly. My mom was also very interested in all areas of my life. She was very concerned about my education.

Does this comparison hold true in your family? I think families are more diverse than they were years ago. In today's world, both parents are working and both parents are helping inside and outside the home. I am not sure it is possible to be the parent of the 1950s. Our society won't allow it, but we can still be the parent God wants us to be. **Ephesians 6:4** gives us specific instructions. We are to raise our children in the admonition of the Lord.

Our prayer is that as our children become adults, they will be a shining light for our Saviour. No matter how good a parent we are, sometimes our children rebel against what they are taught. With all of our efforts, it still seems hopeless. In **Luke 15**, the father of the prodigal son lets his rebellious son go into the world. Why would he let him go? Has he given up on him? Has he written him off? I should say not. Sometimes with our children, we must let them experience the consequences of their actions. We do not know if the father in this story had battled for years or if this was a fairly

recent rebellion. But we do know he realized the son would have to leave in order to come home. We know that he had not given up or written his child off because he was looking for him. He saw him from afar off and proceeded to run to him and kiss him.

As a parent, we should never write our children off, which by definition means to count them as a lost cause or a waste of time. To give up on our child would mean that we never had unconditional love for them in the first place. We may have to make our adult child leave the home, or we may have to allow him to spend time in jail. But make no mistake, that does not mean that we love him less or have lost hope that he will repent and come to Jesus. Tough love is often necessary to bring about repentance.

Being a parent is a difficult responsibility. Each child is different and each has his own challenges. As parents, we need to dedicate our children and ourselves to God. Be prepared to love them no matter what the outcome. By God's grace, they will grow up to be followers of Christ. If we have followed God's precepts, then we will have helped to further the kingdom. Love God with all your heart, your mind, and your soul. Pray without ceasing, and the rest will fall in place.

Never give up on your child!



Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.

What Seek Ye

Dr. Randy Spaugh



“What do you want?” When we hear that phrase, we think there might be an annoyance behind it. This is not the case, nor ever has been with Jesus. To paraphrase, these are the first words recorded by Jesus at the start of His ministry. The words come from **John 1:38** where Jesus says, “*What seek ye?*”

I was listening to a minister speak of how his church was a good church and then went on to rehearse the programs that were ongoing. “*What seek ye?*” Well, I do not seek a good choir, good fellowship, or a good youth group. I want Jesus! I want to walk in His presence. I want my grandchildren to also know what it is like to walk with Him. I want them to have an ongoing spirituality. I want a church that will not forget about their spirituality after they have been baptized. The number of youth a church has that will go to the local theme park is not first on my list.

What is first on your list? If we can determine this, the rest will fall into place. It is not unusual for a pastor to promote his church more than his Saviour. I say that from personal experience. Like most pastors, I discovered that a fun or entertaining activity will get a better attendance than an evening focused on Jesus. For example, when is the last time you saw a billboard and could not really determine who they worshiped simply because the name of Jesus was not there? Maybe we have not tried teaching an ongoing walk with Jesus.

Let’s begin with a statement that is often made: I want a church with a good youth group. Why? When I went away to college, I found that I knew woefully little about scripture. I was not prepared to be a man of prayer and had little guidance in the reading of scripture. Your teenagers will be teenagers. You cannot stop that. But they desperately need to know that Jesus will stand

by them no matter what. As the Bible says in **Romans 8:39**, nothing, *“shall be able to separate us from the love of God.”* Our young people need to know that this is a major theme of scripture. That is so much more important than attendance at youth groups.

Now for some advice. Ask your young people what they are being taught. It is not that they are going to be taught anything wrong. However, we are much more eager for our children to reach a decision than to teach an ongoing spirituality. Notice how many times your children are asked to make a decision for Jesus when they already have. Youth leaders often would rather teach the same thing over and over than to teach steps to take that might facilitate a daily, closer relationship with Jesus. Now that you have answered the question of Jesus, *“What seek ye?”*, you are able to feel better about your trip to the local theme park.

What if the information you are asking your kids about is not being taught? You are the spiritual authority in your home. What are you going to do? It is too important to just let it remain undone. Here are some suggestions: Talk with your pastor, find a new church, and teach them yourself. Let them know what you want and why it is important to you. This will help them understand why this part of life is important. What we seek is Jesus, everything else is of secondary importance.



Dr. Randy Spaugh is a long-time contributor to PathPointe Magazine and a Retired Pastor now residing in Kinston, N.C.

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Wife Appreciation...

In our first few years of marriage, I often thought of my wife as a ball-and-chain. You see, I had been single for thirty-five years and was use to my own ways. By God's grace, I finally became aware that she was actually my anchor. I would have moved too fast and gone too far had it not been for her caution and sometimes, her tears. I appreciate her for so many things, especially for being my anchor.

L. W.

My wife is consistently able to make me laugh. We've always stated that we got married because we couldn't imagine living without our best friend. We still enjoy each other's company as friends because we have learned how to laugh together. After years of knowing her, we have so many "inside jokes" that continue to make us chuckle when we think about them.

A. L.

I am so thankful for my wife's daily encouragement. Her encouragement helps make me a strong and faithful leader.

G. J.

I am thankful my wife loves the Lord! This love is shown through her faithfulness and self-discipline and has been a source of strength in many areas of our marriage and family. God knew just what I needed in a "help mate" when He brought us together!

R. S.

I love that my wife is my perfect complement. In areas that I need improvement in, she pushes me to be a better person. We continue to this day to learn how to work with each other and help each other. Even in those moments of difficulty, we can count on each other knowing our love is secure and that God can guide us to where we need to go. Just today, dealing with a difficult situation, I know I can turn to my rock and she can help bring me back to a better place.

B. A.

“Salute Our Military”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us why you're thankful for our military..

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