

# Relying On God: A Personal Reflection

By: Jay Dixon

The more I reflect on life, the grace of God, and my own ability to be good enough, the more I recognize my profound need for God in my life. On my best days, I struggle and make mistakes. Yet, whether it is my best or worst day, my need for GOD is the same. I am entirely incapable of saving myself or being enough to earn a place in heaven. Salvation cannot be achieved through my own efforts; I need Jesus. It is true that I must make a choice, but I must never forget, if I am to be saved, it will not be because of me, rather, because of Him.



## Kids Column

**"...Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." (Titus 2:14) "...That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work..." (Col. 1:10)**

Once upon a time there were four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody . There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because Everybody was asked to do it instead of Somebody. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place. Thus, who got the job done? That's right, Nobody!

Let us be zealous and fruitful in every good work, and not depend on others to do our work for us.

Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

# seeking Truth



Southend Church of Christ,  
250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840  
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## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM  
**Everyone is Welcome To Attend!**



## Smart or Stupid?

By: Stacey E. Durham

Generally, we do not think of animals such as oxen or donkeys as being very smart. They aren't problem solvers or creators. They just wander around and eat grass or get hitched up to pull a heavy load.

However, such animals can be smarter than people in some ways. This is the point made in Isaiah 1:3, where God said, "An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, but Israel does not know, My people do not understand."

An ox knows its owner, so it submits to its owner and obeys his commands. God's people in Israel knew who He was, but they rebelled against Him and disobeyed His law. The generation in Isaiah's time thought they were smart, even smarter than God, by serving Him in a superficial way while also being immoral and taking advantage of the weak (see Isa. 1:10-17). God was not fooled by their hypocrisy, and He rejected them.

A donkey knows its master's manger, so it doesn't resist the source of its sustenance. God's people in Israel were prosperous in their land but didn't recognize that God gave them their prosperity and could take it away. They foolishly sinned against Him and lost everything they had. The outcome of their sinful rebellion is stated in Isaiah 1:7, which says, "Your land is desolate, your cities are burned with fire, your fields – strangers are devouring them in your presence; it is desolation, as overthrown by strangers."

In these ways, the ox and the donkey turned out to be smarter than God's own people, so let us be warned. We need to know who our master is, and that means surrendering to His authority. All authority now belongs to the Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:35), so let us submit to Him. In doing so, we must keep His commandments with a whole heart, for God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7).

We also need to be loyal to the one who is the source of our blessings. "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (Jas. 1:17). How foolish it would be to resist Him! Moreover, salvation is found in Jesus alone (Acts 4:12). It would be the apex of stupidity to reject Him, for we would suffer the eternal loss of our souls.

In our relationship with God, it is our choice whether to be smart or stupid, and the consequences are ours as well. We can choose to be smart by recognizing that He is the God who loves us, sustains us, and has all authority over us. Otherwise, we can choose to be stupid by rejecting Him, rebelling against His authority, or offering Him hollow, heartless service. Moses and Joshua had set this choice before the sons of Israel (Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15), and they chose poorly. What will be our choice?