

# **The Mind of Christ**

## **By David R. Ferguson**

I have always admired those individuals who demonstrate great intellect. Wouldn't it be fascinating to understand the complexities of the cosmos, from the tiniest quark, to the furthest and remotest quasar, in the same manner as Albert Einstein or Stephen Hawking did? Or wouldn't you have liked to witness in person Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton as they debated the role the Federal government should have in the lives of the People? Or how intriguing would it have been to sit at the feet of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, giving ear to the philosophical discussions taking place in ancient Athens! As interesting as all these men seem to be, there is One Whose wisdom and intellect puts all others to shame, and that is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Regardless of the circumstances He faced, whether it was from one of the groups seeking to trip Him up such as the Pharisees and the Sadducees, or even when He was being confronted and tempted by the Great Adversary, Satan himself, Jesus was always able to face them all by leaning upon the word of God and saying, "It is written."

We, too, can gain in wisdom as Christians by following the precepts of Christ, even to the point of having the mind of Christ: "For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). We have the mind of Christ by engaging in a study of His word. Not only will we have the mind of Christ, we will have eternal life: "Truly, truly, I say unto you, if a man keep My word, he shall never see death" (John 8:51). Paul also wrote to Timothy, saying, "Give diligence to present yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

By spending time in the word of God, and focusing on His Son and "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things," (Philippians 4:8), we will be able to then "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God" (Colossians 3:16).

May the Lord bless you in your studies!

-- *David R. Ferguson preaches for the Lakeland Church of Christ in Mattoon, IL. He may be contacted through the congregation's Facebook page:*

<https://www.facebook.com/lakelandchurchofchrist/> or [davidferguson61@yahoo.com](mailto:davidferguson61@yahoo.com)

## **Me First!**

### **By Donna Wittlif**

*"Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also love you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:1, 2 ASV).*

Me, me, me!" my one-year-old grandson protested as he tried to push his three-year-old sister off my lap. He is still a baby, and already two of his four words are "me" and "mine."

We learn very early to stand up for and protect what is ours and what we want. People seem to have a built-in selfish streak. They put themselves before all others. They want to be the best, to have the best, and to be first in line to have anything good. They believe they deserve to have the best.

The disciples of Jesus were no exception. James and John asked Jesus, "Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and one on thy left hand, in thy glory" (Mark 10:37). Over and over Jesus tried to show them that they should love their neighbor as they loved themselves. The Master and Teacher even washed their feet.

Jesus is God. He gave up His glory in heaven to come to this poor world and save us. When we think of who Jesus is and how He left it all to die for our sins, we cannot help but be humbled. He didn't just wash our feet, but His blood washes and cleanses our souls. Because of Jesus, we have the best, but not because we deserve it.

Christians must give up their pride and arrogance and wanting to elevate themselves. May we imitate our Lord and walk in love, putting others before ourselves and serving them. Let us become His humble ambassadors.

*-- Donna Wittlif, the founder and first editor of BulletinGold, lives in Denver, CO. Donna is also a writer of fiction. Her novels, World Eternal: Promises and World Eternal: Proselytes, and World Eternal: Perils, and her newest book, Finding Her Heart, are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other book outlets. For more information visit her website. <http://www.donnarwittlif.com/>*