

“FOR WANT OF COMMON SENSE”

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Just the other day Danny Black gave me a book containing newspaper articles from Athens newspapers in the years 1866 and 1867. It is fascinating reading. Here is one humorous and instructive item: A GENIUS OUT WEST, conceiving that a little powder thrown upon some green wood would facilitate its burning, directed a small stream from a keg upon the smoking pile; not possessing a hand sufficiently quick to cut this off at a desirable moment, he was blown into a million pieces.

The Coroner read out his verdict: “It can’t be called suicide, because he didn’t mean to kill himself; and it wasn’t a visitation from God, because he wasn’t struck by lightning; he didn’t die for want of breath, for he hadn’t anything left to breathe with. It is plain he didn’t know what he was about; so I shall bring in, “Died for want of common sense!”

The Athens Post, July 7, 1866 I rather doubt any of us would argue with the Coroner. The genius in question thought but not enough. I think he has kin in our time and world today. A favorite passage from the weeping prophet has, “O Lord, I know that they way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). The Bible has been around a very long time, but modern men prefer to go their own way...like our western genius. The result is that latter day intellectuals are blown to spiritual smithereens.

Is it not a matter of common sense to listen to God? He is the Creator (Genesis 1:1). He loves us (John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8). He left us a document containing His revealed Will for our own good (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We will face Him in judgment (2 Corinthians 5:10). Life lived according to His will is better in every way (John 10:10, 3 John 2-3). God’s way is right and best (John 14:6, 14:15).

Sad thing is most folks insist on pouring their own powder on the smoking hulk of their lives, with the same results as above. We want so much that our friends and neighbors understand the warning Paul provided in 1 Corinthians 1:25, “...the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” People are still blowing up their lives “for want of common sense.” God will help us to live good lives here and be with Him in Heaven if we have the good sense to let Him do it.