

Congratulations ... You're a Fool!

Commentary for November 19, 2007 — That's What the World Thinks of You

Yes, you are to be congratulated. You are a fool. At least that is what the world thinks of you. That is what your friends and relatives think of you, if they do not believe that Jesus Christ was resurrected as you so believe.¹ They think that you believe nonsense. That also includes your acquaintances and even strangers if they learn what you believe.

That is the point that divides those who do and those who do not believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.² Those who do not believe cannot help themselves because Godly things are foolish to them:

"But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

• **1 Corinthians 2:14**

Their reaction is to mistakenly consider you to be "foolish" when, according to God, "**the things of the Spirit of God ... are foolishness**" to them. The words "foolish" and "foolishness" mean to be silly or without good sense or judgment. Paul's usage is even stronger. Some authorities even say that the Greek words for "fool," "foolish," and "foolishness" have the idea of insanity contained in them. Does that fit with your experience?

Your Experience in Life Now

To most people in the world, those who believe in Christ's resurrection believe something that simply is not true. It did not happen, in their understanding. God has not yet opened their minds to accept Christ's resurrection as a reality, as a fact. They may give lip service to the truth of Christ's resurrection, but in reality they are not sure, they do not know, and they do not really believe it. We know through faith (Hebrews 11:1). Paul encourages the Corinthians:

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

For it is written, 'He takes the wise in their own craftiness.' And again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.' Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours."

• **1 Corinthians 3:19-21**

There is power — real power — in your belief, in your faith. That power does not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the foolishness of God. Your faith comes from God Himself and it is the power of God. It is the power of His Holy Spirit resident within you. That power allows you to believe. His Spirit energizes you to accomplish exactly what God wants done in this world. The world does not and cannot even recognize your properly motivated (hopefully) actions, deeds, or love, which come from God through Christ:

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1. This is the Gospel Paul preached to the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. The original and ultimate fool is one who says "**there is no God**" in his heart (Psalms 14:1 and 53:1).
 2. This is why you are a misfit. In a sense you do not belong "in the world" any longer. You are a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17), appointed to do God's will for as long as He sees fit. See my article: "[Are You a Misfit?](#)"

“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

● **1 Corinthians 2:5**

“Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God [you] is wiser than men; and the weakness of God [also you] is stronger than men. ...

But God has chosen the foolish things of the world [you] to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world [also you] to confound the things which are mighty.”

● **1 Corinthians 1:24–25, 27**

Weakness

The Corinthian *ekklesia* did not feel powerful. They felt weak and wondered on occasion “why bother”? What does it profit us? They felt extremely vulnerable. They felt alone, individually and as a group. As Paul told the Corinthians, the work done by him and his associates was degraded by the world. They received attacks, even physical assaults, that would have come against the members of the Corinthian *ekklesia* except that Paul and his associates received the blows on their behalf. They suffered on behalf of the members of the Corinthian *ekklesia*.

“We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are honorable, but we are despised.”

● **1 Corinthians 4:10**

You are alone! But God and Christ are with you. You are more alone than the Corinthians were. You are without someone one like Paul, his associates, and probably without a local *ekklesia* congregation to help and support you. In this world you feel alone. You feel helpless. You feel degraded by those who hate the Gospel of Christ, think it is foolishness, and think you are a fool as well. They degrade you and perhaps even make you suffer in a myriad of ways. But God and Christ are with you.

Your friends, relatives, and associates don't hate you, even when they act hatefully. That is hard to believe, but it is true. They think you are foolish. But they hate God. Most do not even realize it. If you had a carnal mind, then you too once had that feeling toward God. Why? ...

“Because the carnal mind is enmity [hatred] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

● **Romans 8:7**

“Enmity” means hatred, both in English and in the Greek. They hate God as you once did. They cannot help doing so. They are subject to **“the law of sin and death”** through Adam.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me [meaning Paul, as well as you and I] free from the law of sin and death.”

● **Romans 8:2**

A Warning

Being human, on occasion we try to “cozy up” to the world. Caution, do so at your own risk:

“friendship of the world is enmity [hatred] with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

● **James 4:4**

Your priorities and actions in life should be proper. How you should act in life as a believer in Christ and His resurrection is clear set forth by Paul in Colossians 3:1–17. You are not a fool. You have the wisdom of God that He gave you (James 1:5; Ephesians 1:17).

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