

**Parson to Person**  
**1 Corinthians 1 (Part 8)**  
**(The Foolishness of the Message Preached)**

*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise... that no flesh should glory in His presence. as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the LORD’”* (1 Corinthians 1:17–31 NKJV Abridged).

**The Foolishness of the Message Preached**

It is no wonder that Paul declared that *“the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”* (vs. 18). Indeed, to the unregenerated person, subject to the non-illuminated mind, the message of the cross is not just weird—but seems ridiculous.

For a moment—without tempting blasphemy—may I suggest the following:

Before there was anything—there was God. He always was! He had no beginning—and also has no end. Apparently God lived alone—with Himself—but actually He is three persons so He wasn’t lonely. Then after a really long time—well actually, before time began—God decided to create everything, except Himself, as mentioned already.

Included with all He created, He created time. So God, also known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, created the heavens and a planet—actually lots of planets, suns, moons, and galaxies. However, He made one very special planet we call earth.

Now, I know that many people think the earth is millions or billions of years old, but actually it was created about 6000 years ago—that's all.

In only six days God created everything—including the angels—we'll come back to that. As part of His creation, God created plants, animals, birds, fish, and a really beautiful garden—into which He created and put a man. His name was Adam—his name means man. Then God made Adam go to sleep, took out part of his body—a rib—and made it into a woman. Why? Because He knew that it was not good for the man to be all alone. Now, this is sort of funny because the woman was made for man, out of man, suggesting that Adam/man would not be complete without the woman. Her name was Eve. She is the mother of all living people. Soon thereafter Eve became Adam's wife!

God made woman for the man so that the one could become two and therefore become one. This is a part of the rules for marriage. One man and one woman becoming one together. To some this is confusing...

God made man in His image!

Now, way back in the day, when Adam and Eve were in the garden, one of the angels—one very rebellious angel—tried to become better than God by earning the allegiance of man. He did this by enticing man to obey him and disobey God. His name was Lucifer. He was a created and beautiful angel but decided to reject God. He became God's adversary, and therefore we call him Satan. Apparently he could change forms or use another creature and went into the garden like a dragon or a serpent or something—and he could talk. He told Eve that she could be like God if she would do what *he* said—implying that God was lying to her and trying to

keep her from experiencing her fullest “human potential!” Did I mention that God can’t lie! Anyway, Eve, wanting more than what God had offered, ate of a fruit tree that God said was not part of her recommended diet—she also gave some to Adam—he ate it too! God said don’t—so this was bad.

As crazy as it sounds, this made Adam and Eve realize that they were naked. Therefore, they hid themselves from God and tried to make clothes for themselves. When they hid, they did so because they were ashamed that they had done wrong and were now able to experience not only good but also evil, not just right but also wrong, not only life but sadly—death too!

God did tell Adam that if he or Eve ate from that specific tree they would die—they physically died a few years later!

Now, there was nothing wrong with the tree—for everything God made was very good. But He had said “don’t eat it or you will die” — “you will know good and evil.” Frankly speaking, things would go from good to bad—and bad to worse. So God had to fix the mess!

Mind you now, God, who always was, also knew everything, and therefore knew that Adam and Eve would eat of the tree—disobeying Him. Therefore, He planned for the fix-up before the mess-up! You see, before time began, God—all three of Him—decided to make a way for the bad stuff to be fixed up by killing Himself. This is complicated. Let’s see if I can explain!

When man messed everything up (we call that sin), God was angry—because He knew that this “mess-up” would hurt all of His creation. However, because He knew all of this in advance, He wanted to make a way to fix things without simply letting Adam and Eve “off the hook.” Forgiveness was not free! Therefore,

needing to judge the sinners (that is what God calls those who sin), He decided to Himself, with Himself, to take the punishment of His wrath upon Himself, by Himself, for Himself. This would actually make Him happy! Why? Because His anger would be taken upon himself and go away. Justice would be served, and then—and only then—He could heal man, restore man, kill death (I know that sounds strange), and give life back to the man in sin.

So, here was the plan:

God decided to pick a very young woman, who had never “been with a man,” make her pregnant—without touching her—and make Himself her child. (He waited about 4000 years from the time of creation to do this so he could tell everyone all about it—and about Himself—beforehand.)

Forty weeks later this young girl gave birth to a son; this son would be called the Son of God—but He was actually God Himself—fashioned into a man like Adam before he sinned.

Several weeks after the young woman got pregnant, she—whose name was Mary—also got married to a man named Joseph.

After Mary and Joseph got married God told Joseph to name the baby, Jesus. Some people called Him Joshua—his Hebrew name. His name means Savior!

Now, Jesus was born and lived until he was 33 years old. He died very young because God killed Him. He is God, but God killed Him! Why? So that He would no longer be angry about the mess Adam made—the sin, disease, death. God did use people in the killing process—but this was all part of the plan.

Jesus never did what Adam and Eve did—He never sinned. Therefore, He was not a sinner! You know—God can’t sin. Therefore, God was able to pour out His wrath, upon Himself, and

die in the place of undeserving sinners—for us! I know it sounds strange, but Jesus, the Son of God, God the Son, died for you—for all of us—taking the wrath of God, upon Himself, that we may escape the wrath to come.

Now, I have to tell you, Lucifer—also known as the Devil and Satan—tried really hard to get Jesus to sin, but he failed. He was also pretty happy to see Jesus suffer and die—but there was a problem—death could not hold Him. He physically rose from the dead. This we know! Satan must have been pretty upset with the whole thing!

When Jesus rose from the dead, a lot of things happened to prove it. There were over 500 eyewitnesses who saw Him alive—after He was dead. Some ate with Him, many talked with Him, a few even saw His grave clothes. At one of the post-resurrection gatherings He came into a room without opening the door, but still allowed Thomas to touch Him—apparently others touched Him too!

After 40 days Jesus went to heaven. Some of His followers saw Him float up to the sky! However, He said He was coming back! He also said that if people would believe this story—put their trust in Him—He would tell Himself not to judge them in His anger and would forgive them all their sins and give them everlasting life. They would escape the wrath to come!

God, by Himself, for Himself, made a way to fix the mess man made!

### **An Alternate Message**

Nothing existed! However, the nothingness exploded and made everything. We are a cosmic accident! We have no purpose

or meaning. When we die we return to nothingness; we won't exist. We face no judgment, answer to no one, and have no consequences in or for life. There is no God, no truth, no right, no wrong, and of all things, no hope of rescue from the pain, suffering, and death we all endure.

### **Another Possibility**

We don't exist at all and this is all an illusion.

### **And Yet Another**

Aliens planted us here! We are their experiment—"Guinea Pigs." But—where did they come from?

### **Mental/Spiritual Illumination: Grace for Grace**

If you believe the story of Creation and the work of creation's God—thank the Lord! For it is by His grace, through His grace, by His power, through His power, for His glory, and to His glory—that you believe!

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul