

ABC's of SALVATION

by

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CHAPTER SIX

FOOLS

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY defines the word fool as "one who acts absurdly or stupidly, or pursues a course contrary to wisdom." As we study this word in the light of the Bible, we find that there are at least seven different kinds of people characterized by this term. Should any reader find himself described in either of the first six classifications, we trust that he will not take the attitude of the native Chinaman who got angry at the missionary as the latter read the first chapter of the Epistle to the Romans and cried out, "It is not right for you foreign devils to come here, find out all about us, then write it in a book." Little did the Chinaman know that the missionary was reading God's thoughts. Remember that these terms are found in the Word of God.

I. The Educated Fool

"But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die" (I. Corinthians 15:35, 36).

The phrase "educated fool" is paradoxical. There should be no such thing as an educated fool. But there are many people who may think themselves to be educated and whom other people think to be educated, yet when their thinking and conduct are analyzed they will be found to come under Webster's definition. In the verse just quoted, the great Apostle seems to have an imaginary objector before him, who objects to the resurrection of the body from the dead. Had this imaginary objector taken one look at the field outside his gate he would never have asked the question.

A supposedly educated leader in the city where I was pastor for many years, was asked, "What is your conception of God?" This man pointed to a tree and said, "There is God." He could have as logically said, "Here is a watch, but there has never been a watchmaker save the watch itself—it assembled itself." These "educated" fools will laugh at and sympathize with the poor ignorant folk who believe the Genesis account of creation, but have no trouble in accepting the mud puddle account of the amoeba and the billions of intervening years between the amoeba and man. Of this latter teaching, Sir William Dawson, the Canadian geologist, says, "It is the strangest phenomena of humanity; it is utterly destitute of proof. But for the vigor one sees elsewhere, it might be taken as an indication that the human mind had fallen into a state of senility, and in its dotage, mistakes for science the imaginations which were the dreams of youth."

Yet our children are compelled to hear this through many of the grade schools, high schools, and colleges.

II. The Shameless Fool

“Fools make a mock at sin” (Prov. 14:9).

The law, announced in Galatians 6:7, **“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,”** runs through man’s whole realm. The farmer sows with a twofold expectation, getting back not only the same kind of grain that he sowed but also a much larger amount. Men expect to reap more than they sow, save in the matter of sin.

Mortality tables are based on hard, cold statistics. These show that the total abstainer is 40 per cent less liable to tuberculosis, and has 60 per cent better chance to recover, than the drinker. The total abstainer is 50 per cent less liable to pneumonia, and is 200 per cent more liable to recover. The total abstainer has as high as 200 per cent more chance over the drinker to recover from wounds and infection, and 60 per cent less liable to kidney, bladder, and liver trouble. The drinker’s children are eight times more liable to defects such as feeble-mindedness, blindness, etc. Yet with all these hard, cold facts before them, our political leaders in America decided a few years ago that this country could drink itself back to prosperity and a balanced budget. The statement made three thousand years ago is still true, **“Fools make a mock at sin.”**

III. The Thoughtless Fool

“And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand” (Matthew 7:26).

This man may not have believed the foolishness taught by the so-called educated fool; he may not have been the self-indulgent fool who mocked at sin, yet he is called a fool. Why? Because he was just plain thoughtless. When a man builds a house, if he be wise, he will seek a solid foundation. These earthly houses are subject to decay and disintegration, yet how careful men are about the foundation! But when it has to do with the soul that lives on, and on, throughout eternity—how thoughtless men are! In I Corinthians 3:11 it is written, **“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

In spite of this clear and concise statement, we see men who are building their eternal destiny upon church membership, some kind of reformation, etc., etc. Remember, dear reader, the Lord Jesus Christ said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”** (John 14:6). Do not be so thoughtless as to come under this classification. Reject the shifting sands of man’s speculation and build upon the solid rock of divine revelation.

IV. The Provident Fool

“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:20).

This man had been a successful farmer. His barns failed to provide space for his abundant crops. There is not a thing in the picture to suggest that he came under the other classifications, especially the first two. To the onlooker it would seem that God was richly smiling upon him. The words “**shall be required**” have as their meaning, “*they demand.*” Some invisible hands had been driving him on and on in his mad rush of storing up treasures on earth. That night as he was lying upon his bed, contemplating larger barns, these unseen forces brought him to the brink and pushed him over. Who were the powers? They were the god of this age and his hellish forces, who cause man, in his scramble for world goods and power, to forget God. *The man who lays up for time and not for eternity God calls a fool.*

V. The Self-Confident Fool

“**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools**” (Romans 1:22).

This class is closely associated with the first class mentioned in this chapter. The context from which this quotation is taken shows that the inspired writing refers to the heathen world. The Bible teaches evolution, or better, devolution, for it is downward instead of upward.

Go to the heart of Africa today. What do we find? We find men and women bowing down to “**creeping things.**” Who are these men and women? They are the descendants of men and women who once “**knew God.**” But they had put their “**vain imaginations**” above the revelation of God. Go into the halls and temples of learning today, and in many, if not most places, you will hear the atheistic, behavioristic doctrine of “self-expression.” Then go to the penal institutions, the juvenile courts, or read the reports of juvenile delinquency, and you find the finished product of this teaching. Who are these teachers, and where do they teach? In most cases they are “the degenerate sons of great sires,” the latter, who through great sacrifice and devotion to God, country, and home, founded these places of learning. But in many of these institutions the revelation of God has been dethroned and the reasoning of fallen man substituted. We have sown to the wind—the whirlwind is upon America.

VI. The Worst Fool

“**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God**” (Psalm 14:1).

The words “*there is*” are in italics, showing they have been supplied by the translators, leaving us with the thought, “*The fool has said in his heart, No, God.*”

That is simple language, easily understood. God knocks at the sinner’s heart, and the latter says, “No.” The sinner says, “No,” to God in many ways. God in His word says, “**There is none righteous, no, not one**” (Romans 3:10) yet the sinner says, “I have lived a good life and God will accept me.” That is saying “No” to God. Again God’s word says, “**Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight**” (Revelation 3:20), yet it is no uncommon thing to hear someone say, “I am keeping the ten commandments and expect to be saved.” This is saying “No” to God.

Christ said to a religious man, “You must be born from above,” yet many people when asked if they are saved will answer, “I belong to church; I have been baptized,” etc. What is this? It is saying “No” to God.

Dear reader, if you have been substituting something for the new birth, you have been saying “No” to God. Quit it and accept Christ as your Saviour from sin.

VII. The Christian Fool

“**We are fools for Christ’s sake**” (I Corinthians 4:10).

In the preceding verse, the great apostle says, “**We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.**” Every true Christian is such.

- Noah must have appeared a fool in the sight of men, while working upon his craft before God had ever wrung a tear from a cloud.
- Moses must have appeared a fool to the wise men of Egypt as he renounced the crown for a crook.

Call the roll of the heroes of faith and you will find that all have been fools in the sight of men. You can be such a fool today. But listen, when the judgments of Revelation, chapters 6 to 19, are falling upon this earth, you will be singing at the Throne of God. Who will be the fool then?

Revelation 5:9, 10 records a praise service around the Lamb in glory. It is composed of those who had been fools on earth in the sight of men. Revelation 6:15-17 records a prayer meeting on earth. But notice what they pray for! They pray for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of the same One whom the others are praising.

Beloved, when the world is on fire, which prayer meeting will you be in?

**Fools for Christ! May it ever be
Said of those who follow Thee.
The wise of earth ne’er understand
What draws the saints to yonder’s land.**

**Fools for Christ! How blessed the tho’t
To know one day ‘twill be the lot
Of those who suffer here—To be
And reign with Him eternally.**

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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