

I Corinthians 6 - The Foolishness of God

I Corinthians 1:19-20 – These are good questions!

V. 21 --How bad off are we? How foolish are we? In all our, so-called, wisdom and knowledge, we can't find God!

--The Greatest Reality in the Universe, but we can't find Him!?

--What else are we missing?

One of the clearest ways God has proven human wisdom to be foolish is to just let time pass. Time is one of the best fact-checkers.

--A great benefit of recorded history and, more recently, audio and video recorded history, is its demonstration of how foolish we are and how bad we are at knowing the future.

--"Even a broken clock is right twice a day"; therefore, we must be far beyond broken.

1876, the president of Western Union, William Orton, dismissed phones as a "toy" when Alexander Graham Bell offered to sell him the patent for \$100,000. According to *True West* magazine, Orton wrote an internal memo stating: "The idea is idiotic on the face of it"

In 1903, the president of Michigan Savings Bank warned Henry Ford's lawyer, Horace Rackham, to protect his money. "The horse is here to stay, but the automobile is only a novelty, a fad."

In 1932, Albert Einstein reportedly commented that there was not the slightest indication that nuclear energy would ever be obtainable. He noted that it would require shattering the atom at will, which seemed too remote to be practical. Little more than a decade later, nuclear fission powered both devastating weapons

20th Century Fox kingpin Darryl Zanuck sniffed at the idea of "idiot boxes" keeping people out of the theater. In 1946, he predicted, "Television won't be able to hold on to any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night."

In 1962, Decca Records auditioned the Beatles and decided to pass on signing them. Executives reportedly told the band that guitar groups were on the way out and that they had no future in show business.

Around the time of the first Earth Day in 1970, and in the years following, there was a "torrent of apocalyptic predictions"

Harvard biologist George Wald estimated that "civilization will end within 15 or 30 years [by 1985 or 2000] unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind."

We are in an environmental crisis that threatens the survival of this nation, and of the world as a suitable place of human habitation," wrote Washington University biologist Barry Commoner.

Ecologist Kenneth Watt told Time that, "At the present rate of nitrogen buildup, it's only a matter of time before light will be filtered out of the atmosphere and none of our land will be usable."

Population will inevitably and completely outstrip whatever small increases in food supplies we make," Paul Ehrlich (Stanford University professor) confidently declared in the April 1970 issue of *Mademoiselle*. "The death rate will increase until at least 100-200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next ten years" "Most of the people who are going to die in the greatest cataclysm in the history of man have already been born,"

Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, "in 25 years, somewhere between 75 and 80 percent of all the species of living animals will be extinct."

In 1995, computing pioneer Robert Metcalfe predicted that the internet would soon go supernova and catastrophically collapse by 1996. He imagined a sudden explosion of activity followed by total system failure that would end the experiment. Instead, the web grew rapidly and became essential for

communication, business, and entertainment. [Metcalf later publicly ate a printed copy of his column](#) to acknowledge how wrong he had been.

Y2K predictions?

“There’s no chance that the **iPhone** is going to get any significant market share. No chance.” That’s what Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft, said in 2007.

Kenneth Watt warned about a pending Ice Age in a speech. “The world has been chilling sharply for about twenty years,” he declared. “If present trends continue, the world will be about four degrees colder for the global mean temperature in 1990, but eleven degrees colder in the year 2000. This is about twice what it would take to put us into an Ice Age.”

Consider these headlines:

• “[The Earth’s Cooling Climate](#),” Science News, November 15, 1969. • “[Colder Winters Held Dawn of New Ice Age](#),” Washington Post, January 11, 1970. • “[Science: Another Ice Age?](#)” Time Magazine, June 24, 1974. • “[The Ice Age Cometh!](#)” Science News, March 1, 1975. • “[The Cooling World](#),” Newsweek, April 28, 1975. • “[Scientists Ask Why World Climate is Changing; Major Cooling May Be Ahead](#),” New York Times, May 21, 1975. • “[In the Grip of a New Ice Age?](#)” International Wildlife July-August, 1975. • “[A Major Cooling Widely Considered to Be Inevitable](#),” New York Times, September 14, 1975. • “[Variations in the Earth’s Orbit, Pacemaker of the Ice Ages](#),” Science magazine, December 10, 1976.

Reporters told the public about global cooling in the same confident tone used in today’s coverage about global warming.

On Earth Day, we commonly hear dark predictions about the looming horrors of global warming (a typical example, “What is at stake [is] our ability to live on planet Earth,” Al Gore).

Critics will say there was no scientific consensus in the 1970s that the world was cooling, but that’s not how the media reported it to the public.

--They claim that this time it’s different which is what they’ve always claimed.

--One of our biggest flaws is the assumption that we are somehow different, somehow smarter, that somehow, we won’t be wrong like those that have gone before us.

Where have our minds gone?

--**Romans 1:22-23** – Because we have turned away from God, we have lost our minds.

--Two ways we can know that we’ve lost it: one, we don’t think we have! (a sure indication of that we aren’t thinking right is the confidence that we are!); two, the evidence of our depravity.

--**Romans 1:25** – The evidence of this is right in front of us: **VV. 26-28**

--**Romans 1:28** – the evidence: **VV. 29-32** – the evidence is prolific.

--Fact-check: These trends are the tell-tale signs of a culture that is crumbling. These have always marked the approaching end of nations and cultures.

I Cor. 1:25

--“The foolishness of God”? does God have foolishness? Not any more than God has “weakness”!

--Paul is indulging in sarcasm here in order to demonstrate how bad off we are outside of Christ.

1. God has always done things “foolishly” in the world’s eyes.

--Having His Son born in Stinky stable, raised by two impoverished people, work His whole life as a manual laborer— “right!” “sure”

--Noah builds and Ark to rescue his family and certain animals when it hasn’t rained much less flooded?

--Abraham leaves his family and inheritance to go to a land that he’s never seen and God doesn’t even tell him where it is. “I will show you” seems foolish!

--Changed his name half way through from “exalted father” to “father of a multitude” when he had no children seems ridiculous.

--Moses with no money, no army, no clout is supposed to go to the most powerful man in the world and tell him to let his people go, and that was supposed to work?

--David vs. Goliath – would you have bet on those odds?

--An orphan named Hadassah whose name was changed to Esther. What are her chances of being the savior for her entire race?

--Who would have stood up and said that it was a smart move for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to not bow down?

--Who would have sent the most important message of all time through a ragtag group of fishermen, tax collectors and Ne'er-do-wells as well as a confessed killer named Paul?

We should never expect the real news to come from our world, only foolishness.

Rule of thumb: if the world says it matters, it almost certainly doesn't; if the world says its foolishness, we might be seeing God's work before our eyes.