

Today Darwin's disciples have changed the bear-to-whale fiasco a bit. Some maintain that whales evolved from a wolf-like creature or maybe a cat-like animal or perhaps a hippopotamus-like animal. And lately some have fantasized over a deer-like creature. And these "experts" all bicker amongst themselves over their outlandish speculations. But the Christian's faith is based on the inerrant Word of God:

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:21).

— Roelf L. Ruffner
Columbia, TN



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

- Sheila Beauchamp — recovering from shoulder surgery
- Tonya Thatcher — difficulty with pregnancy
- Judy Reid — treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- Mike Mallett — fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley — fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- Janice Ruffner — fighting various physical issues
- Ann Henderson — fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)
- Brian Ritter — fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Tim Smith — fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
- Richie Aidoo — Joshua Aidoo's 8-year-old son (fighting seizures)
- Samuel Bagsangi — Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
- Joshua Aidoo — Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	15
Contribution	\$700.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$833.09

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Bible class teacher for November	Dub McClish
Chairman of Men's Meetings (October–December)	Phil Smith
Preacher, <i>The Lighthouse</i> editor	Dub McClish

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Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday

B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

CHRIST "...Died for Nought"?

The whole Christian system centers around the death of Jesus on the cross. He "died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6, 8). He "gave himself for our sins" (Gal. 1:4). He "gave himself a ransom for all" (1 Tim. 2:6). He "gave himself for us" (Tit. 2:14). He "laid down his life for us" (1 John 3:16). In spite of these and numerous like statements of Scripture, certain things, if true, would mean that Christ died in vain.

- **If salvation is by law of Moses:** Paul argued: "If righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nought" (Gal. 2: 21b). The Galatians had fallen victim to the teaching of Jewish Christians who sought to bind at least parts of the law (i.e., circumcision, 5:2–4; cf. Acts 15:1) upon Gentile Christians. If Moses' law could have saved, it would not have been necessary for the Word to become flesh (John 1:14). The Hebrew nation had been under that law for 1,500 years by the time of Jesus' birth. It was but a "tutor" that pointed to the Christ (Gal. 3:24); its sacrifices were but typical of the **only** "Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29, emph. DM). Jesus slew the authority of Moses' law on Calvary (Col. 2:14). All who seek to justify religious practices by it (e.g., sabbath observance, priestcraft, instrumental music in worship, "holy" water, et al.), by implication render the death of Jesus worthless.
- **If religious division is right:** Although millions applaud diversity in religion (including various "world religions"), the Bible condemns it. Jesus built **only one** religion/church (Mat. 16:18), and He intended for its members to be **one**, as He and the Father are **one** (which includes/demands doctrinal unity) (John 17:20–23). He did not even tolerate division in a single congregation of His church (1 Cor. 1:10–13). He died to establish this **one** body (Eph. 2:16; 5:25). If Jesus is as pleased with the gross divisions in religion as with **His one church** He established, then "Christ died for nought" in that regard.

- **If the church is non-essential:** Jesus “purchased” His church with His blood, which He shed on the cross (Acts 20:28). *Jesus yes, the church no* is still a common concept. If one is considering only man-made counterfeits of Jesus’ church, the slogan is true, for **He died for none of them** (although He died for each person in them). His church consists of those whom He has saved from sin and whom He will save eternally through His death (Rom. 5:10; Acts 2:38, 41, 47). To include His church merely as one acceptable religion among the many implies that Christ paid that awful price for it in vain.
- **If I am lost:** Jesus’ death will have been wasted, as far as I am personally concerned. This will not be the case for others, of course. He “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6), so all have the opportunity to be saved. But as for me, if I am lost, He may as well have spared Himself the misery and agony of the cross, for they was for nought.

It behooves each of us to obey Jesus’ plan of salvation (Acts 2:37–41), whereupon He will add us to His church (v. 47), whereby one accepts the salvation He offers. Each one doing so thus attributes the true value to His death in a very personal way.

– Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Saved by Grace

We should be ever thankful for the grace of God that has made salvation possible. Without God’s grace and mercy, man would be without hope and “most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:19). The inspired Paul wrote, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). Paul helps define *grace* by adding that salvation is a “gift” from God. Man’s sin has separated him from God (Isa. 59:1–2), but God loves man so much that He has made a plan by which man can be reconciled to Him (John 3:16; Col. 1:21–23).

Many have misused the phrase, *by grace are ye saved*, to imply that one is saved by grace **only**. The verse in no way teaches such. In fact, we can know exactly how the Ephesian brethren were saved by grace through faith. During Paul’s third evangelistic journey, he once again visited the city of Ephesus (Acts 19:1). While there, he preached the Truth (v. 8), for without hearing the Word of God, one cannot be saved (Rom. 10:17). Of those Ephesians who heard the Word, some believed (Acts 19:18) and some did not (v. 9). The Bible teaches that it is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6), and thus one must believe to be saved. The believing Ephesians acted upon God’s grace and confessed that Jesus was the Christ and repented of their past iniquities (Acts 19:18–19). So, to be saved by grace, the Ephesians had to confess and repent. Last, we know that the Ephesians were baptized to have their sins forgiven. How do we know this? The

Ephesians believed what Paul preached (v. 18). What did Paul preach concerning baptism? The same command he had obeyed: “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Paul taught that it was in water baptism where one has his sins washed away. In addition, immediately upon entering Ephesus, Paul encountered disciples who had been baptized with the baptism of John. After teaching them that the baptism of John was no longer in effect, the disciples “were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:5).

And so, we can know how to be saved by grace through faith. We simply need to follow the same pattern followed by the Ephesians to whom Paul was writing: (1) Hear the Word, (2) Believe the Word, (3) Repent of Sins, (4) Confess that Jesus is the Christ, and (5) Be Baptized to have our sins forgiven. After following God’s plan to save, which was given to us by His grace, and not by the works of any man (Eph. 2:8–9), God will save such and add them to His church (Acts 2:41, 47; cf. Eph. 1:22–23; 2 Tim. 2:10). We are saved by God’s grace, but not by His grace alone. Man must appropriate that grace by humbly submitting to God’s plan to save (Heb. 5:8–9) and by remaining faithful unto Him (3:14).

– Brad Green
Lenoir City, TN

Whale of a Tale

It takes an enormous amount of faith as well as downright **gullibility** to believe in Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution. He maintained that a “lower” species of plant or animal life can, over a period of **millions** of years, evolve into another species of plant or animal.

Yet contrary to what evolutionists believe, their theory has never been demonstrated by valid experimentation, observation in nature, or even in the fossil record. But evolutionists hold to their **false assumptions** with a zealously blind faith that borders on obsession. A case in point is Darwin’s speculation in the first edition of his book *On the Origin of Species* that a whale evolved from a bear.

In North America, the black bear was seen by Hearne swimming for hours with widely open mouth, thus catching, like a whale, insects in the water. Even in so extreme a case as this, if the supply of insects were constant, and if better adapted competitors did not already exist in the country, I can see no difficulty in a race of bears being rendered, by natural selection, more and more aquatic in their structure and habits, with larger and larger mouths, till a creature was produced as monstrous as a whale (p. 567).

So bizarre and ridiculous were his assumptions thought to be that he was forced to remove them from subsequent editions of his book by his scientific colleagues. Yet isn’t the whole ungodly theory of evolution **preposterous** and ridiculous? “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psa. 14:1).