

A Word Study by Pastor Melissa Scott, Ph.D.

A “Foolish” Study:
The New Testament Use of Four Different
Words in the Greek vs. the English word “Foolish.”
(Including: fool, fools, and foolishness)
S = Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance

The Apostle Paul’s use:

		Greek	Strong’s
Galatians 3:1	“O <u>foolish</u> Galatians...”	ἀνόητοι	S•453
3:3	“Are ye so <u>foolish</u> ?”	ἀνόητοι	S•453
Romans 1:21	“...and their <u>foolish</u> heart was darkened”	ἄσύνετος	S•801
Romans 2:20	“...an instructor of the <u>foolish</u> ”	ἄφρόνων	S•878
1 Corinthians 1:27	“But God hath chosen the <u>foolish</u> ...”	μωρὰ	S•3474

Jesus’ use:

Matthew 7:26	“foolish”	μωρὰ	S•3474
Matthew 25: 2, 3, 8			
Mark 7:22	“foolishness”	ἄθρόνων	S•877
			same as S•878
Luke 24:25	“fools”	ἀνόητοι	S•453

Strong’s 453 ἀνόητος - *anoētos* from “α” negative particle plus a derivative of S•3539 νοιέω from the word in Greek *nous* and probably the base of S•1097 *ginōskō* “to know.”

English relative: aneosis

Strong’s 801 ἄσύνετος - *asunetos* from “α” negative particle plus S•4908 - *sunetos*, from S•4920 *suniēmi* - sun = “together/with” and *hiēmi* = mentally to put together.

Strong’s 878 ἄφρων - *aphrōn* from “α” negative particle plus S•5424 φρήν - *phrēn* – mind or cognitive faculties.

English relative: phrenic/phrenology (the study of shape & size of cranium as an indicator of character... also related to schizophrenia/nic).

Strong’s 3474 μωρός - *mōros* – dull, stupid, foolish.

English relative: Coll. moron

Galatians are not being called – *mōros* or *aphrōn* or *asunetos* but specifically *anoētos*!