

Only Fools Deny There Is a God

Psalm 14

Introduction: In its simplest form atheism is a worldview perspective that says there is no God and lives life from this perspective. Paul Feinberg in an article on “Atheism” in the *EDT* (pgs. 112-13) identifies 4 forms of atheism:

- 1) *Classical atheism* is the rejection of the god of a particular nation.
- 2) *Philosophical atheism* may be contrasted with theism.
- 3) *Dogmatic atheism* is the absolute denial of God’s existence.
- 4) *Practical atheism* does not deny God, but life is lived as if there is no God.

When it comes to Dogmatic Atheism there is a list of impressive advocates.

- “It is clear as the sun and evident as the day that there is no God; and still more, that there can be no God.” Ludwig Feuerbach, German atheist philosopher.
- “The cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be.” Carl Sagan, deceased Atheist scientist.
- “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.” Richard Dawkins.
- “I don’t want a God that would go around killing people’s little girls. Neither do I want a God who would kill his own son.” John Spong, Episcopal bishop, *Daily Record*, N.J., 1-27-00.

Thomas Nagel, prof. of philosophy at NYU:

“I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. I hope that there is no God! I don’t want there to be a God; I don’t want the universe to be like that.”

Take a good hard look. Get beneath the surface. The problem is not with the mind, the problem is with the heart. We don’t want there to be a God, at least, not a God like the one revealed in the Bible

I. The Fool Opposes the Things of God

14:1-3

Psalm 14 is almost identical to Psalm 53. It is both a psalm of lament and a psalm of wisdom.

1) He does not serve God

14:1

- The fool is *nabal*. The emphasis is not so much on his mind as it is his will. Here is the practical atheist. In my heart, in my life, in my affairs, there is no God for me or to me. If He is there I don’t care. This man is a self-consumed humanist and self-absorbed secularist to the core.
- David quickly diagnoses his spiritual condition:
 - They are corrupt (morally perverse, wicked, depraved) in character
 - They have done abominable (*NIV*, “deeds are vile”) things in conduct
 - There is none who does good (a comprehensive judgment of all practical atheists). Serving God is of no concern at all.

2) He does not seek God

14:2-3

- They have all turned aside
- They have together become corrupt
- There is none who does good

o No, not one

Through the fool is in view particularly, it is now all of humanity that is under scrutiny. What God saw in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3 & 4), at the time he brought the Flood (Gen. 6:5), at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:5) and at Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.18:21) has continued on.

II. The Fool Troubles the People of God 14:4-7

Committed to a world without God, the fool of Psalm 14 actively opposes not only the things of God, but the people of God.

1) The fool acts wickedly 14:4-5

- These persons are called “workers of iniquity” (*ESV*, “evil doers”) who have no knowledge (*NIV*, “never learn”). They lack godly wisdom and insight.
- They feed on God’s people. Others are a useful means to their evil ends and goals.
- They do not call on the Lord. Why? They do not need Him nor do they want Him.
- And yet they tremble in fear, “overwhelmed with dread” (*NIV*), “are in great terror”(ESV) because they do see something divine in the redeemed community.
- The fool fails to see where life without God leads, that as Dostoyevsky said in *The Brothers Karamazov*, “If God is dead, then all things are permissible.”

Remove God from the earth, and earth becomes hell.

2) The Lord acts faithfully 14:5-7

The fool does not feel his corruption but the man in Christ does.

The fool does not perceive the light of salvation but the man in Christ does.

The fool does not know his own wretchedness as he ought but the man in Christ does.

Vs. 5 To oppose God’s people is to oppose the God who is with His people.

Vs. 6 The *NIV* says “evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor.” In positions of power and prominence they ridicule, harass and do their best to put and keep God’s people down. However, the Lord is their refuge, their fortress of protection, and their place of security in times of trouble.

Vs. 7 Here, in the final verse, is the prayer of Psalm 14. The psalmist pleads for deliverance and rescue from Zion, the place where Messiah-King is enthroned as God’s anointed (2:6)!

The phrase “bring back from the captivity of His people” is better rendered “when the Lord restores the fortunes of His people” (*ESV*; *NIV*). Such a day was seen when out of Zion came Jesus the Messiah-King who joined His people, struck terror in the hearts of the wicked, delivered His own, and brought joy and gladness to all who flee to Him for refuge.

Conclusion

- 1) Each one of us must carefully examine our heart, our lives, to make certain we are not playing the fool of Psalm 14.
- 2) The fool has said in his heart there is no God.
The wise has said in his heart there lives my God, and His name is Jesus.