

Psalm 14.

Title: The Path of Foolishness.

The fool has said in his heart,

"There is no God."

They are corrupt,

They have done abominable works,

There is none who does good.

²The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men,

To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.

³They have all turned aside,

They have together become corrupt;

There is none who does good,

No, not one.

⁴Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge,Who eat up my people *as* they eat bread,

And do not call on the LORD?

⁵There they are in great fear,For God *is* with the generation of the righteous.⁶You shame the counsel of the poor,But the LORD *is* his refuge.⁷Oh, that the salvation of Israel *would come* out of Zion!

When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people,

Let Jacob rejoice *and* Israel be glad.**Introduction**

Many years ago in the U.K. a street evangelist managed to gather a large crowd of people around him. He said that he had discovered a verse in the Bible where it said;

"There is no God."

People waited expectantly for the evangelist to open his Bible and show the people the verse where it says,

"There is no God."

When the crowd was judged to be at its largest, the evangelist opened his Bible and read from **Psalm 14: v.**

1.**"The fool has said in his heart, there is no God."**

Afterwards the evangelist tried to preach the Gospel to the crowd. Many drifted away, but some stayed to hear him.

Today if you say in your heart that there is no God of the Bible, then the God of the Bible replies to you today, **"You are a Fool."**

Our English word "fool" comes from a Latin word that means "bellows."

In England when everybody had coal fires, bellows were used to produce air to revive a dying fire.

This suggests that a fool is a person full of empty air.

In the Hebrew language there are three basic words for fool.

These are a person who is dull and stupid, an unreasonable person who is perverted, and a person who is like a stubborn animal.

People who think there is no God are not necessarily people without a good brain, or intelligence.

They may have good minds, but lack spiritual wisdom or insight.

The Bible in describing a fool focuses upon, not the intellect or mind, **but the moral aspects of life which require us to be accountable to a Holy God.**

Psalm 14 describes the path of a foolish person.

I have highlighted three things that the Psalmist points out to us about foolish people.

1. A fool denies a creator owner God – v. 1a

The first two chapters of the book of Genesis are very important chapters.

They describe the history of creation and the origin of mankind.

Genesis 1: v.1 & 26-28 in the N.L.T.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

²⁷So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

Although the Bible has proved to be the most accurate historical document of all times, many people today deny the existence of a creator owner God.

Why do they do this?

There are many reasons that people give for being an "atheist" but the main one, if they are honest is something like this.

"I don't want to be accountable to anybody concerning my life. I want to go my own way in life. I want to live the way that I want to live."

The problem for atheists is that their argument for "No God" is very weak, compared to the Christian's argument for a creator God.

I will very briefly give you three arguments for the existence of God. By this I mean the God of the Bible, our creator owner.

a) There is a world-wide belief in the existence of the God of the Bible.

Even before Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible, there was a universal belief in the existence of a supreme God.

Where did this belief come from?

It did not come from outside sources, such as reason, tradition or even the Bible.

All of the evidence points to the conclusive fact that the belief in the existence of God comes from within. It is something already built into all of our hearts.

The Bible says that God has put the idea of eternity into all of our hearts.

(Eccl. 3:11)

The Bible talks about people suppressing the truth. (quote here)

Atheists spend their whole lives trying to suppress the truth that is already planted in their hearts.

The Bible is clear that God created us in His own image. When He did that, something of Himself was placed into mankind.

Therefore, inside our hearts, there is an awareness of a creator God who made us.

In lots of people all over the world there is a desire to search for the meaning and purpose of life.

Where does that desire come from?

It comes from that something that God has put into our hearts.

b) The world in which we live, animals, birds and plants are uniquely designed. This points to a super designer.

I would like to give you an example from three bird species.

The Arctic Tern – migrates between the North and South Pole. Every year it travels 15,000 km. In their life time the average is about one million kilometres.

These tiny birds have a navigational system that no man can ever understand.

Whoever created these birds must be greater than man.

The Bar Headed Goose – This bird has the highest migration route over the Himalayan Mountains. It starts at sea level and rises to 9 km above sea level.

There is very little oxygen at this level.

Most creatures, including humans could not survive at this level.

This bird not only survives but flies a great distance at this height.

Who created such an amazing goose? Certainly it wasn't an accident?

The Golden Plover - One of the most amazing routes of migration takes this bird from Alaska to Hawaii. The journey is 3,000 km. The island of Hawaii represents a very tiny target in the vast Pacific Ocean. This bird makes it every year without a satellite navigation, or any training.

What an amazing bird! Who created and designed such a creature?

The Bible says that the God of the Bible made the birds. (Gen. 1:20)

A similar unique design system can be seen through thousands of birds, animals, insects, trees, plants and everything else in nature.

It is not possible to have such unique and amazing designs and capabilities in these creatures without someone of a much higher power and intelligence than man who can account for their design.

Yes, God gave man a little spot of his intellect, but that is all. God is the master designer. He can produce something wonderful out of nothing.

God does not need pre-existing material to create anything.

Man always needs to use that which God has already made to create other things.

Man will never create something out of nothing.

c) **The design of man and woman point to a higher intelligent design.**

Human beings have a unique design in mind, body and spirit.

The unique design of man gives great evidence for a creator.

Man is very different from animals and this proves that man does not come from apes. He was uniquely created at the same time, but created differently.

We only have time for two examples, but there are many.

Man's Big Toe – Everybody has a big toe which is close to our other toes.

This feature is important for walking and running.

For each step that we take, the final push comes from the big toe.

In order to propel the body forwards in a controlled manner, the big toe must be very strong.

This is in contrast to the apes, as their big toe is like a flexible thumb which is designed for gripping branches.

When apes try to walk in an upright position, they can't make a push from their big toes.

Man's knee joints - The knee joints of humans have four complex parts that need to exist and function simultaneously in order to function correctly.

If you have an injury in only one part of the four parts, then your knee can't function in the same way.

The human knee joint can be fully extended so that the leg can be made straight and the body upright.

The human knee joint locks in the upright position.

This position makes standing easy because the muscles do not need to be kept in tension.

In contrast the knee joint of apes is not fully extendable, which is why an ape must always have bent legs.

Man has managed to design a knee replacement, but it can't function in the same way, as God has created the knee.

When you have a knee replacement you can't do the breast stroke in the swimming pool.

Whoever designed a person's knee was better than our top knee replacement medical scientist.

Someone designed a different knee for apes compared to Man.

The special design means that there is no possibility of an ape evolving into a man. The complex operation involved would make this impossible.

The God of the Bible was the amazing designer of the human knee and the ape knee.

Therefore, a fool denies his creator owner by ignoring the evidence.

2. **A fool's heart is corrupt and their actions are evil – v. 1-4.**

The Psalmist in v.1-3 is very critical of fools.

He tells us that God looks down from heaven to see if any of these foolish people might seek God. God discovers that not one of these fools does any good in His eyes. The reason for this problem is that man does not accept his sinful nature.

Mankind prefer to think that they are born perfect and it is only the outside world that can corrupt their hearts and minds.

Most people can't accept that a little baby can be born with a sinful nature.

To these people I would say, "who teaches a child to do wrong things and to be disobedient to their Mother?"

It is not the Mother who teaches the child to disobey. The child's very nature expresses itself through disobedience.

You have to teach a child to do the right things, but you never have to teach a child to do wrong. This wrong behaviour comes from its sinful nature.

The problem with "fools" is not a lack of normal intelligence. It is deliberate ignorance.

Let us look at some Bible passages that highlight this deliberate ignorance.

2 Peter 3: v. 1-7. In N.L.T.

This is my second letter to you, dear friends, and in both of them I have tried to stimulate your wholesome thinking and refresh your memory. ²I want you to remember what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles.

³Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴They will say, "What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created."

⁵They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

Romans 1: v. 18-28. In N.L.T.

¹⁸But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

²¹Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²²Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ²⁶That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

²⁸Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

When you leave your creator God completely out of your thinking, your inner person becomes more and more corrupt.

As we get near to the second coming of Jesus Christ people will not be hearing God's word taught from the Bible.

This world will become more and more corrupt.

Take heart. We have God's word, we have the truth, and we must declare it, while we have the opportunity.

Finally, in this section we are told that the workers of iniquity eat up God's people as they eat bread. What does this mean?

To eat people like bread is a Biblical metaphor for exploiting the helpless.

Corrupt people exploit the poor and those who can't help themselves.

God's judgement is coming to these people.

This is why the Psalmist says in v. 5 that sudden fear will come upon these people.

3. A fool will one day have sudden fear v. 5

One day, sudden fear will come upon those people who reject God in their life time.

What is the Psalmist thinking about here?

The Psalmist is assured of God's eventual judgement for the fool who rejects God.

When confronted with "fools" in Athens, Paul responded by telling them that one day they would face judgement, through Jesus Christ.

Acts 17: v. 22-31.

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

There is only one place where you will be able to say, **there is no God, and that sadly is a place called Hell.**

Therefore, **the wisest decision you will ever make**, is to admit that you were originally created by the God of the Bible for a relationship.

Through the disobedience of our original parents Adam and Eve, God separated himself from his created beings.

He punished mankind by bringing death upon all people because of their disobedience.

However, God provided a way back into that original personal relationship that we once had with Him.

The way back to God is only through His Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, God's Son took the punishment we deserve for our sin and disobedience.

2 Corinthians 5: v. 21 in N.L.T.

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Don't be a "fool." Be wise and put your faith and trust in Jesus.