
SUMMER PSALMS

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 53

SERIES: Summer Psalms

TITLE: The Burden of Unbelief

BIG IDEA: We were once dead in our trespasses and sin, but we have been made alive by the gift of belief in Him.

TEXT

**To the choirmaster: according to Mahalath. A
Maskil of David.**

53 The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;
there is none who does good.

²God looks down from heaven
on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.

³They have all fallen away;
together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.

⁴Have those who work evil no knowledge,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?

⁵There they are, in great terror,
where there is no terror!
For God scatters the bones of him who encamps
against you;
you put them to shame, for God has rejected
them.

⁶Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of
Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

SWARTZ FBC LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE



1. THEOLOGY MATTERS

Application Question: Does God's authority comfort or threaten you?

- Why is it foolish to say there is no God?
- What does this attitude say about our heart if we believe there is no God?
- How does this passage help us understand God's definition of "good."
- How does recognizing our nature as sinners help us better understand salvation by grace alone?

2. THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY FOR FAULTY ASSUMPTIONS

Application Question: Are you submitting to or attempting to redefine what God has said?

- What are some common misconceptions about God and/or Scripture?
- Why is it important to live with a respectful and appropriate fear of the Lord?
- Why is it easy to redefine and reinterpret God's Word to fit the narrative of our own desires?
- How do we practically guard against misinterpreting, redefining, and twisting Scripture to suit our biases?

3. IN THE GOSPEL, JESUS RESCUED HIS PEOPLE FROM THEMSELVES

Application Question: Are we seeing God's care as providence or punishment?

- What are some common impulses and distractions we face daily?
- Why is God's care easy to confuse with punishment?
- How does our response and attitude change when we realize God's boundaries are protective rather than restrictive?
- What is the clear Gospel connection in this passage?