

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adults Sunday School

PSALM 14 – THE FOOLISHNESS OF ATHEISM

I. INTRODUCTION

To the Chief Musician. The chief musician is like the chairman of the worship service. He is to ensure good preparation of all who are involved in the service for each Lord's Day. The people who are commonly involved are the ushers, greeters, the musicians, the PA crew, etc. They must know when they are supposed to be on duty, mark in their calendar and prepare themselves in advance. No one is to take it lightly and enter into the Lord's service without being made right in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). It is a Worship Service. Service is a time for worship; worship is a time for service.

Without good and proper preparation, our service to God will not be found joyful and acceptable before Him. It will be no more than an outward form of service which can become a routine evil for those who serve the Lord without preparation.

Therefore the chairman is an important person to ensure all those who are on duty at the worship service to serve rightly before God and man. Such worship will be sweet delight to God and surely the whole worship will be accepted by God for His name is glorified. Do not take it lightly the preparation of our heart as we come for worship each Lord's Day. One day we shall worship the Lord for eternity.

A Psalm of David. As the chief musician is like the chairman of the service, David is like the preacher of the sermon which is indispensable for every worship service. You can do without a chairman but not the preacher. God's Word is that which is the authority behind every worship service. Every item of worship must be based upon the Word of God. And finally there is exhortation and instruction from God's Word for all worshippers as they gathered together for worship.

David is filled with the Holy Spirit, as he is the instrument through which God ministers to us His Word. In this psalm, the foolishness of atheism is highlighted. Many today are living as if there is no God. It is a self-deception and direct denial of the Creator. This is foolishness to the ultimate, simply because they are blinded to all the proofs that indeed God existed. May such foolishness of atheism be far away from us, and may God fill our heart with fear and love that our worship of Him will be done with clean hands and a pure heart.

II. THERE IS NO GOD?

Verse 1, “¹ The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”

Who is the one that asks “There is no God”? The psalmist has already defined him as a fool. A fool is a stupid person that is void of any moral sense. In the eyes of man, one may not be a fool because of his arduous achievement and accolades that he obtained due to the education he has passed with flying colours. And yet when it comes to the acknowledgement of God, he failed badly as he denied outrightly the existence of God.

The Bible is right to deal with the fool in his heart. The reason is because one may profess to believe in God outwardly but inwardly is full of unbelief. For whatever reasons, he may come to church, hold the Bible in his hand and even be involved in some service and ministries, but in his heart is a big zero. There is no faith at all within him that God can see and be pleased with.

They are corrupt.

The “they” refers to all fools who deny the existence of God. Indeed they are corrupt in every way. Even the good that they are doing and have done are not accepted by God because they are corrupted by sinful hands that have not been surrendered to the Saviour for salvation and sanctification. The word corrupt means perishing or decaying. Indeed the works of unsaved men are corrupted and contained no eternal value, and therefore are good as far as this life is concern. But eternity, they are absolutely useless.

They have done abominable works.

The word abominable means detestable to the core. God utterly hates all the works of the unsaved. They were not done for Him and therefore not accepted and condemned. That includes those acts which may be morally right and good, beneficial to man in general. However, these good works cannot qualify us to enter heaven. They will forever be unaccepted because of sins. One might have thought that one way out is to keep doing good so that more good will exceed the evil and sins committed. Is that possible? Read on.

There is none that doeth good.

The good refers here is meant perfection. God's standard is perfect. It is not even 99% which is the closest to perfection. Perfection means 100% righteous and without any mistake. Is there any man who is perfect to begin with? Since Adam's first transgression, there is none that doeth good. It is the second Adam, Jesus Christ who is born perfectly without sin by His virgin birth, and He lives in complete obedience to God's commandment faithfully without failing.

Truly there is no man like Christ who has attained perfection. That's why we need Christ. And the moment Christ imputes His righteousness upon us when we believe in Him by faith, we are able to do that which is good in the sight of God. And that is after we believe in Christ. Before believing in Christ, we are unable to do any good that pleases God. But now we can. However there are many who still say, “There is no God” and they prefer to rely on themselves to make their way to heaven. Are you one of them?

III. THERE IS NO KNOWLEDGE?

Verse 2, “² The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.”

Man is so small that God has to look down from above. This is of course figurative. There is no need for God to look down as if He is confined to a fix place. This illustrates that truly God is so high and great that He has to move Himself in a manner to bring His focus on puny man who could hardly be seen from heavenly perspective. This is similar to how the tiny little island Singapore is shaped as a red dot on a world map. And shamefully to say that, even that dot is bigger than Singapore, if it is made to scale. This is how small man is, and this verse reveals how God bothers Himself with puny man like us.

Verse 3, “³ They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

What is the result when God evaluates the spiritual state of man? It is a big failure! There is none that pass the standard of God which is perfection. Is such a standard too harsh? Absolutely not. God is completely holy, righteous, and good. His standard cannot be lower than perfect. If so, then He

ceases to be God. And so the report card on every single man is a big failure. And this failure means they are condemned and now heading towards hell as punishment.

They are all gone aside.

This means that all of them have departed from God. There is none who is on God's side. This is a very sad result, isn't it? And for God to inspire David to pen down such a result, there is no pleasure in Him at all, for that means all those who are found to have departed from God will end up in that terrible place called hell.

They are all together become filthy.

Filthy means unclean and dirty, which needed to be washed again. However this is not physical uncleanness. If this is physical uncleanness, all you need is a thorough bath with a strong cleansing soap that washed away all your filth. But this is spiritual uncleanness. It is the inside of a man that is unclean. How to clean that? No way, can a man able to wash himself and be clean perfectly inside him.

There is none that doeth good, no, not one.

This is a repeat of the last part of verse 2, with an additional emphasis on absolutely no one is good enough for heaven. The Arminians think and believe that sinful man, though corrupted and evil, there is some element of goodness in him that enables him to choose God and do that which is right in His sight. This is contrary to what this part of the verse teaches. Absolutely no one is fit for heaven, period.

Do we still want to challenge God's Word? God's Word never makes mistake and will never ever be found to contain any mistake at all. It is the pride of man who wants to conclude there is mistake in the Bible. And they try to hide behind a humility cover so that people will believe their lies. But God will expose their lies one day. And they will be proven wrong and be subjected to open shame. Make sure you are not part of them.

Verse 4, “⁴ Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.”

God called these fools workers of iniquity. This is not a good title at all. They are those who do nothing but sin and sin and sin all day long. To such, the question is asked if they have any knowledge of God. What is the answer? Of course they have. It is easy to deny the existence of God and try to live as if there is no God. That's easy. The prince of the air, who is Satan Himself will keep on enticing people to take his side and away from God's side.

Let us not think that these workers of iniquity are harmless people around. They “eat up my people as they eat bread.” God's people obey the divine command to expose error and promote the truth that will set sinners free from their bondage.

And yet these atheists not only they are not receptive to the gospel, they went around trying to destroy God's people. And the way God's people were eaten up by them is described as though they were eating bread. They have no qualms at all to get rid of them as as if this is the most natural and noble thing to do. As much as there is nothing wrong in eating bread, and it is a necessity, what the atheists have done is that they felt nothing wrong in destroying God's people. They truly are blinded inside them and like Pharaoh, God hardened all those hearts who refuse to believe that He is real.

IV. SURELY THERE IS GOD!

Verse 5, “⁵ There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.”

Among the atheists, there are those who fear. What did they fear? Their fear is fear. It is an unsettled unrest within their heart and yet at the same time they refuse to come face to face and acknowledge God is true and in Him is salvation. How pathetic are these people who are so close to the kingdom of God if only they repent!

God is in the generation of the righteous. The opposite is true. God is against them who are the generation of the unrighteous. And one day they will receive their just punishment. All their denial of God's existence will be broken into pieces. And they will be made to reflect upon all the wasted time, energy, resources spent in light of atheism. And it will be a terrible reminder for them since they will never be able to get out of their eternal misery.

Verse 6, “⁶ Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.”

Because of pride, they thought they are gods and therefore they became arrogant and took matters into their hand. They oppressed and suppressed the poor. The very reason why they did that was because these poor refused to be won over and hold to their atheistic view. Therefore they retaliated and caused affliction to come upon the poor.

The poor may have suffered unjustly but the Lord is his refuge. Refuge is a place where one hides from his enemies or from wild beasts. The word refuge means more than just a shelter. It is a protective shelter provided for those who belong to God. It brings also the element of trust where you are willing to give your all to Him because you trust Him.

Verse 7, “⁷ Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.”

This salvation of Israel is a spiritual one. This is because out of Zion or Jerusalem, the Messiah will come. This is the gospel message which was preached by God in the beginning in Genesis 3:15. This is the ultimate salvation that sinful man can receive forgiveness of their sins and redemption of the cross.

Jacob is the old name while Israel is the new name. When I read these two names together under the same breath, I could not help but to praise God for His mercy and love upon those who refuse to believe in Him once upon a time. God will bring back the spiritual captivity, all those who have been chained up because of their sins of unbelief and atheism. Truly it is a glorious sight to witness the restoration of God's people to Himself again.

V. CONCLUSION

Just as God has never given up on atheists, we must always be ready to share the gospel with them with much patience, love and prayer. The power of the gospel can turn the hardest of all sinful heart around. Our eyes may not see God, but with spiritual sight we can see His hand moving in our life. This spiritual sight is made clearer each time we look into the Bible for God's instruction and comfort. May God help us. Amen.