

PSALMS 14

THE WORLD'S FOOLISH CREED - PRACTICAL ATHEISM

{14:1a} The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Many people who are professing Christians are practical and practicing atheists. What really determines our actions? It is not what we believe? Therefore, if we live our lives as if God does not exist and His word is not true, then our actions speak wordless testimony regarding what we really believe in our heart. Notice that David did not say, the fool says *with his mouth*, there is no God. Some "practical" atheists may become embolden to change to "professing" atheists; however, a practical atheist does not have to confess that he is one, his actions reveal his heart.

PRACTICAL ATHEISM'S ROLE IN CORRUPTING MORALS

{1b} They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. {2} The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. {3} All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

We start out in this sequence of verses and we can imagine and bring to mind many people whom we know who are corrupt and do evil things. As we continue to read, we soon find that ALL are indicted by the charge. No one escapes the guilt of having denied God. Taken to the ultimate we see that this verse confirm the depravity of man in his natural state. As the New Testament gives evidence, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Corruption and vileness and disregard for others is a natural outcome of the fallen nature of unregenerate man. They are literally doing what comes naturally.

We cannot judge the existence and goodness of God by the actions of men. Some well known people (such as Mark Twain) have looked at the suffering in the world and they concluded "if God existed, He would not allow such things to happen." Because of the fallen nature of man our only hope is in God. Without His influence the corrupt nature of fallen man would cause life on earth to be totally intolerable.

As born-again children of God we must be alert to situations where we allow the way of the world to be the path in which we walk. While bad morals is expected of those who do not put their trust in God, bad morals must be completely alien to the child of God. Instead, we are to walk in paths of righteousness.

PERSECUTION OF RIGHTEOUS BY THE UNGODLY

{4} Will evildoers never learn-- those who devour my people as men eat bread and who do not call on the LORD?

We are ever asking why the immoral act as they do. We ask questions such as "Don't they know that murder (or incest, or abortion, or adultery, or fill-in-the-blank) is wrong? The most basic answer to this question is that they (in their fallen nature) are unrestrained and they can't keep from doing what they do. Whether they know it is wrong or not, they justify their own actions and fail to admit (or confess) that their actions are wrong.

Specifically, why would the ungodly persecute the righteous or as David phrased it "devour God's people?" The very presence of a righteous person is testimony to the existence of God and the fact that His salvation is real. Therefore, the righteous bring conviction on the ungodly by their very existence. For this reason, the ungodly would like to eliminate those who are righteous.

NO PEACE OF MIND FOR THE FOOL

{5} There they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. In spite of their actions and their denial of the existence of God, the fool is always plagued the realization that there is eventual justice and what they see in the lives of the righteous gives

evidence of God. The sense of dread and fear of dying is not so much a survival instinct but is a fear that programmed into our very being . As Paul stated in Romans 1:19-22:

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

FOOLS RIDICULE THE GODLY

{6} You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge. (Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. KJV)

The KJV captures better the original language - the literal translation could read “The counsel of the poor ye cause to stink, Because Jehovah is his refuge.” (YLT) We see this ridicule of Christians in the popular media of today. Comedians find great delight in have Christians (in general) and preachers (in particular) the object of ridicule in their jokes. Most debates on any subject dismiss any arguments that have their origin in God’s words as being not applicable. We also see this dismissal of the relevancy of the Bible in letters to the editor in our newspapers with statements such as “It does not matter what the Bible teaches on the subject we are making our decisions on the laws that have been enacted.”

PRAYER FOR MANIFESTATION OF THE LORD

{7} Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

The prayer of David was answered in the coming of the Messiah. However, the restoration of the fortunes of God’s people is yet to come to pass. Though all in the world system will manifest their basic fallen nature, there is a “company of the righteous” who find their only merit in God. These will be persecuted by those in the world, but God will bring judgment upon all who do evil.