

Psalms 14

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YouTube Prayer Link

Non believer's thought

Psalm 14 is a Psalm by David

14 is a psalm of suffering, which shows the origin and nature of evil and indicts the sins of the wicked. The roots of the worldly lie in the atheistic outlook on life. Foolishness is innate ignorance, and evil is the concrete practice of sin.

In the world of unbelief, fools tell themselves that there is no God above men, that they cannot see God? Or is it a deliberate denial of God's existence? When there is no God, people will rely on themselves to decide what to do, and do whatever they want, that is, they are stubborn, they set their own rules and accumulate strength, just like the animal kingdom, and everyone does what they like. If there is "no God", people can become gods themselves and do whatever they want, the law of life is to survive the fittest, become a king or lose, and have fun in time, and the most important thing is to have money, status, enjoyment, happiness, etc., and lose the direction of life, so the more knowledge the "fool" has, the greater the ability to do evil.

The "fool" first appears in the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32, when Moses tells the Israel: In the future you will be corrupt and ignorant, pointing out that God exists and has grace and works in us, but we do not know how to respond and repay Him. Therefore, a foolish person not only means that a person does not have God in his heart, but also that he does not know how to respond to God and does not pay attention to God. When this is the case with the whole earth,

God appears. The foolish man thinks that he is very powerful, he is not afraid of heaven and earth, but his heart is full of fear, and he does not know what he is afraid of. This is to point out the contradictions in their hearts from God's point of view. Isn't it very strange for fools to be stupid, they don't need God, and they're afraid of being half dead, but they don't look for God all the time. In fact, God is there, so we need to think about how to respond to Him. If we don't know what to do, call on Him, so that we are the clear, the wise, the shrewd, and the prosperous, otherwise we will be caught in a great contradiction.

Jeremiah 17:9 "Who can understand the heart of man who is deceitful above all things, and utterly wicked?" When people in the world strive to use education and knowledge to change people's hearts, hoping that in this way, people will be able to free themselves from the bondage of sin, but they find that education and psychology cannot change their nature and their hearts, but can only break the power of sin with outside help, that is, God's grace and forgiveness. Jesus said that He is "the way, the truth, and the life", and that only true knowledge can prevent man from living in sin, and only through Jesus Christ can man turn from evil to good.

The Lord looked down from heaven on the world, and in Genesis 6 before the Flood was coming, God saw that the hearts of the world were all evil, and in chapter 11, when they were about to build the Tower of Babel, God came and changed people's accents; And it came to pass, when God was about to judge Sodom, that God said, "I have heard the evil voice of Sodom, and I will go and see it." When God is not coming, God is coming.

Paul quoted the first three verses of the psalm to illustrate that "all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). In this passage we see David lamenting the foolishness of men who not only resist God, but also persecute God's people (vv.1~6). But he longs for Jehovah's righteous kingdom to be established on earth (v.7).

(14:4) The first characteristic of a foolish person is that he devours God's people, that is, oppression, and the law of the jungle. The second is that they do not know how to repay God and interact with God. The third is not praying, has no relationship with God, does not need God's help, and always thinks that you can do anything. (14:5), they say that there is no God, and on the other hand, their hearts are filled with fear.

Verses 6–7 are addressed to the oppressed people that salvation will come and the Lord will be their refuge. "Jehovah will bring revival to his people," so "then Jacob will rejoice and Israel will rejoice."

Does this psalm speak of the darkness before the dawn? We need to trust God and endure to the end, and after this journey, we will be proud of God, because He is our refuge, and those who are arrogant before us will fall.

The revealed divine wisdom of Jesus Christ is still rejected by many fools. They despise God's Word and live as if God doesn't exist. As if God would never judge them according to His law. They don't think they need the promises of the gospel. 1 Corinthians 1:18, "The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing." Even though God had given them a clear revelation, they still turned a blind eye to Him, Romans 1:21-22, "Though they knew God, they did not

glorify Him as God, nor give thanks to Him." God will help those who seek Him and belong to Him.

God will be with them (v.5) and will be their refuge in the age of unbelief (v.6), so that they can escape from their troubles and enjoy freedom from evil forces. Become a witness in troubled times, a clear stream in sewage.

Today, people continue to slide into the abyss of destruction, rejecting the wisdom of the gospel and losing their only hope. It was only at the end of their lives that they realized that in Jesus' parable, God had said to the rich and foolish man true, "O foolish man, your soul must be made tonight, and to whom will you prepare it?" They couldn't take anything with them. Those who reject God, not only do they resist God's grace, but they also oppress, devour, and hate God's people, because God's people remind them of their own foolishness, which is a painful reminder to them. When Jesus Christ comes again and appears among the saints, it will be too late for those who refuse to believe in God to perish in fear.

Psalm 14 is also a reminder to our believers today that while atheism and areligionism are becoming more and more accepted and even very popular in today's society, this psalm illustrates the depth of human sin, but also shows how great Jesus' redemption is. As the world grows more and more cold and even hostile to Christ and His disciples, and when we feel hopeless because of it, let us pray to Jesus Christ to forgive them for their foolishness.

Let's pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for being our daily help, even though there are many evildoers around us, who say there is no God, and they are coming to devour us. But you are our protection, our refuge, and when we cry out to you, you will answer us!

Heavenly Father, please give us a heart that is as strong and courageous as Joshua, a heart that longs for God to be close to God and to love our Heavenly Father! O God! Help me to have a heavenly vision to hold fast to my faith in this age of unbelief.

Prayer is in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Psalm 14 is a psalm attributed to King David. It is part of the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament and is also mirrored in Psalm 53 with slight variations. The main theme of Psalm 14 focuses on the folly of those who reject God and the moral consequences of this rejection. It contrasts the behavior of the wicked with the righteousness of God, emphasizing the difference between those who deny God's existence and those who follow Him.

Full Text of Psalm 14 (NIV):

The fool says in his heart,

“There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile;
there is no one who does good.

The Lord looks down from heaven
on all mankind
to see if there are any who understand,
any who seek God.

All have turned away, all have become corrupt;
there is no one who does good,
not even one.

Do all these evildoers know nothing?
They devour my people as though eating bread;
they never call on the Lord.

But there they are, overwhelmed with dread,
for God is present in the company of the righteous.

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the Lord is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the Lord restores his people,
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Important Verses and Themes:

Verse 1: "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

This is one of the most famous lines from Psalm 14, and it characterizes the theme of unbelief and its consequences. The term "fool" in the Bible typically refers not to someone lacking intelligence but to someone morally deficient, one who rejects God.

It speaks to the arrogance and ignorance of those who deny God's existence, often leading to corrupt behavior.

Verse 2: "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God."

This verse highlights God's omniscience, showing that He observes the actions of all people, searching for those who are wise enough to seek Him.

It also implies that wisdom is found in the pursuit of God.

Verse 3: "All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."

This verse reflects the biblical theme of human depravity. In Romans 3:10-12, the Apostle Paul references this passage, using it to support the argument that all humans are sinners in need of God's grace.

It emphasizes that without God, humanity is inherently sinful and corrupt.

Verse 5: "But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous."

This verse introduces a shift from the condemnation of the wicked to the hope for the righteous. It reveals that, despite the dominance of evil in the world, the wicked are ultimately filled with fear because God stands with His people.

It also provides comfort to believers, reassuring them of God's presence among the righteous.

Verse 7: "Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!"

The psalm ends on a hopeful note, anticipating God's future deliverance of His people.

Zion represents the place where God's presence dwells, and this verse expresses the longing for salvation and restoration.

It foreshadows the coming of the Messiah and ultimate redemption.

Key Themes:

Human Sinfulness: The psalm paints a grim picture of human nature, asserting that everyone has turned away from doing good without the influence of God. This echoes the biblical theme of the fallenness of mankind.

Divine Judgment: God is portrayed as observing and judging humanity, discerning between the righteous and the wicked. Those who reject God face judgment, but those who trust in Him find refuge.

Hope of Salvation: Despite the overwhelming corruption, the psalm ends with hope, anticipating the salvation of Israel and the rejoicing of God's people.

Psalm 14 provides both a sobering reflection on human nature and an encouraging message of God's faithful presence among His people, assuring them of eventual redemption.

Psalm 14 holds a deep theological significance and offers profound spiritual insight. It reflects on human depravity, the rejection of God, and the hope for divine salvation. Here's an exploration of the theological and spiritual dimensions of the psalm:

Theological Thought in Psalm 14

Human Depravity and Sin: Psalm 14 begins with the declaration that "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" This assertion captures the theological concept of human sinfulness. In the Bible, a "fool" is not someone lacking intellectual capacity, but someone who is morally and spiritually deficient. By rejecting God, the psalm implies, a person becomes corrupt, leading to sinful and destructive behavior.

Theological Implication: The psalm echoes the doctrine of original sin, which holds that humanity, by nature, is inclined to sin and rebellion against God. The repetition of "no one who does good" emphasizes that, without God's grace, humanity is entirely lost in sin. This view is foundational in both Jewish and Christian theology, highlighting the need for divine intervention to overcome sin.

God's Omniscience and Judgment: In verse 2, it says, "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God." This speaks to the

omniscience of God—God is all-seeing and all-knowing. He observes the hearts and actions of all humanity and discerns those who are wise enough to seek Him.

Theological Implication: This verse reflects the belief that God actively engages with His creation and judges the moral state of humanity. He does not merely observe but also evaluates whether people are seeking Him. This ties into the broader theological theme of God's justice, where He holds all of humanity accountable for their actions.

Corporate Sinfulness and Universal Need for Salvation: Psalm 14:3 states that “all have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.” This verse underscores the universal nature of sin. It is not just a problem for individuals, but a condition of all humankind. In Christian theology, this is linked to the concept that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Theological Implication: This psalm suggests that all humanity is in need of redemption. There is a deep theological resonance here with the New Testament’s teaching that salvation comes not from human effort but from God’s grace through faith.

God’s Presence Among the Righteous: Verse 5 offers a contrast to the fate of the wicked: “for God is present in the company of the righteous.” Even though the wicked reject God, the righteous enjoy His presence. This signals the theology of divine immanence, where God is near to those who seek Him and live in obedience to His ways.

Theological Implication: This verse reinforces the belief in a covenantal relationship between God and His people. The righteous are those who remain faithful to God, and they are reassured of His protective presence. It also hints at the theme of divine reward for the faithful and judgment for the wicked.

Hope for Salvation and Restoration: Psalm 14 concludes with a longing for salvation: “Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!” Zion, the hill where the Temple stood, is often used as a symbol of God's dwelling place and His future redemption of Israel.

Theological Implication: The mention of salvation coming from Zion points to the messianic hope in Jewish theology—the belief that God will send a deliverer to restore His people. For Christians, this verse is seen as a prophetic reference to the coming of Christ, the ultimate Savior who brings salvation to all people, fulfilling the psalm’s longing for divine intervention.

Spiritual Influence of Psalm 14

A Call to Humility and Dependence on God: Psalm 14 invites deep reflection on human limitations and sinfulness. The realization that “there is no one who does good” leads to a posture

of humility before God. It encourages believers to acknowledge their own moral failings and their need for God's grace.

Spiritual Influence: This psalm challenges the individual to avoid arrogance and self-sufficiency, recognizing instead that true wisdom lies in seeking God and depending on Him for moral guidance and spiritual sustenance. It leads to a deeper sense of reliance on God for transformation and righteousness.

A Reflection on Moral Corruption in Society: The depiction of widespread corruption in Psalm 14 resonates with those who observe moral decay in their own societies. The spiritual message here is that rejecting God leads to injustice, violence, and oppression.

Spiritual Influence: This psalm serves as a reminder of the spiritual battle between good and evil, urging believers to stand firm in their faith and resist the influences of a godless world. It calls for intercessory prayer for the restoration of morality and justice in society.

Comfort in God's Presence and Protection: For those feeling overwhelmed by the apparent triumph of evil in the world, Psalm 14 provides assurance that God is present with the righteous. The wicked may seem powerful, but they are ultimately filled with dread because of God's justice.

Spiritual Influence: The spiritual takeaway for believers is one of comfort and courage. Knowing that God is present in the midst of the righteous gives believers strength to endure hardships and trust that God will ultimately vindicate them.

Anticipation of Salvation and Redemption: The final verse of the psalm expresses a longing for salvation, which is both a personal and communal cry. Spiritually, this fosters hope in God's future intervention, whether it be through personal deliverance or the coming of the Messiah.

Spiritual Influence: For Christians, this psalm reinforces the anticipation of Christ's second coming and the ultimate redemption of the world. For Jewish believers, it strengthens the hope in God's promise to restore Israel. This spiritual hope fuels perseverance in faith and prayer.

Conclusion:

Psalm 14 combines a sobering reflection on the state of humanity with a hopeful anticipation of God's intervention. Theologically, it underscores human sinfulness, divine judgment, and the need for salvation. Spiritually, it calls believers to humility, encourages trust in God's protection, and inspires hope in God's future restoration. It remains a powerful text for those seeking to understand the nature of sin and the hope of redemption.

