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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**THE FOOLISH HEART**

**Psalms 14:1-7**

**{To the chief Musician, [A Psalm] of David.}**

***Psalms 14:1 “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."***

This psalm begins with a key idea for life: The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” The word fool (Hebrew nabal), biblically defined, refers to one who is morally deficient. A vivid biblical illustration of just such a fool is the man whom David solicited for help, Nabal, whose very name is the same word employed here, meaning “fool” (1 Samuel 25). Nabal’s rejection of the sovereignty of the Lord and His anointed—just like that of the fool depicted in this psalm—is ultimately, inevitably requited by God: “the LORD struck Nabal and he died” (1 Samuel 25:38). People with this attitude are corrupt and there is no one who does good. The “fool” in view here is a person who lives life without regard for God. Either he disbelieves in the existence of God or is convinced that he is not accountable to God for his actions. Day after day, the idea of divine justice is far from his mind. Therefore, his lifestyle is corrupt.

***Romans 1:21 “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.”***

We have only to look around us at all of God's creation and know there is God. Just the fact that a planet rotates out in the atmosphere and does not fall, shows that there is order in the universe. Some One, greater than you and I, put the planet there and told it what to do. So many people, in the age we live in, have the false idea that we will become a god someday. To answer them, I say, have you created any worlds lately? An intelligence so far above our comprehension created the entire universe, and everything, and everyone in it. I can dig a hole in the ground and plant a seed, water it and watch it grow. The strange thing is that, I did not make the ground to put it in, I had nothing to do with the making of the seed, and I didn't even make the water to water it with. You see, if there were no God to provide the earth, the seed, and the water, then I could not grow a plant. I am not even in control of the next breath I breathe. When God gets ready for me to stop breathing, I will. How foolish it is to say there is no God.

***Psalms 14:2 "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, [and] seek God."***

Despite the foolish denial of God’s existence, He does indeed exist. David’s poetic description of God having looked down from heaven to see refers not to the physical act of seeing from an upward location, but rather to His ongoing assessment of the heart of humanity. The unchanging conclusion of this assessment is that there are none who seek after God.

***Jeremiah 17:9-10***

***9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?***

***10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.***

There were so many such people around in his day that David pictures God looking down from heaven on the human race and finding no one who sought God or lived in wisdom. In the days of Noah, God did this very thing. He was grieved in His heart, because He had made man. He searched to see if there were any who believed, and He found Noah.

***Genesis 6:5-8***

***5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***

***6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.***

***7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.***

***8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.***

The really sad thing was that late on, God could not even find 10 people in right standing with Him in Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18). It appears from verse 2, that even in David's day, it was equally hard to find anyone living for God. We might say, if God looked down today, He might decide that it is worse now than then. There are a few real Christians, but the world as a whole, has gone bad. Sin is on every corner.

***2 Timothy 3:1-17***

***1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.***

***2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,***

***3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,***

***4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

***5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.***

***6For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,***

***7Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

***8Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.***

***9But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was.***

***10But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,***

***11Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.***

***12Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

***13But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.***

***14But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;***

***15And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

***16All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:***

***17That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.***

***Psalms 14:3 "They are all gone aside, they are [all] together become filthy: [there is] none that doeth good, no, not one."***

This is speaking of humanity as a whole. Truly our generation would be classified as the most evil generation. This is a universal reality of the sinfulness of the human condition: They have all turned aside … become corrupt (cf. Rm 3: 23). The full truth of God’s Word, and the gospel in particular, will never be understood and accepted “unless the Father … draws him” (Jn 6: 44).

Media has had a great deal to do with the evil that is so rampant today. Movies, so filthy they would not have been allowed even in B movie houses a few years ago, are shown on prime-time television now. Drugs and alcohol are rampant in our society. Drugs and alcohol are used so much because people are not able to face the realities of each day. They think, if they get high on drugs or alcohol, it will help them face the day-to-day problems of life. Wholesale credit plans have ruined many marriages. Soap operas cause young girls to put unrealistic hopes on their marriages. Little children {neglected by parents} are seeking love in gangs. It really seems the whole society has gone crazy. Where are the true Christians who will stand up and try to change things for the better? Someone must say, STOP! Christian women and men of America must take a stand for God. We are in a war. Who will stand, even in the face of death, for Christian principles set down in the Bible? Will God say of our generation, where is even one who truly loves Me?

***Psalms 14:4 "Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? Who eat up my people [as] they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD."***

Indeed, the entire human race has been corrupted by sin. Paul in Romans makes his case for the sinfulness of humanity.

***Romans 3:10-12***

***10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***

***11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.***

***12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

***Romans 3:22-24***

***22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:***

***23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***

***24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:***

These workers of iniquity are those who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. They are not satisfied with being lost themselves, but constantly are encouraging weak Christians to get involved with them. It is dangerous to fellowship with those of unbelief. Christians should witness to the lost, but do not go into their places and get involved in their sin to witness to them. These workers of iniquity desire to absorb Christians into their way of life {eat them}. Christians are to be separated people. We are not to be caught up in the things of this world. When we receive Jesus as our Saviour, we are symbolically buried with Jesus. We rise to new life in Him, which means we live our life the way Jesus would live if He were living it. The world, and the wicked in it, are headed for hell. Don't go with them, Christian.

***Psalms 14:5 "There were they in great fear: for God [is] in the generation of the righteous."***

This fear is speaking of the terrible awareness of knowing you have sinned and deserve to go to hell. This fear {reverence} of God causes a man to repent. Repentance of sin and accepting Jesus as our Saviour, makes us righteous in God's sight. Those, who have accepted full pardon through the shed blood of Jesus, are the generation of the righteous in God.

***Psalms 14:6 "Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD [is] his refuge."***

The evil doers of this world, laugh at the righteousness of the believer. There is a day when their laughing will cease. God fights our enemies for us.

***Proverbs 14:26 "In the fear of the LORD [is] strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."***

***Hebrews 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"***

***Psalms 14:7 "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."***

Throughout all Jewish history, they have looked for Messiah, their Saviour. David longs for the day of Israel’s deliverance, the day when God would restore the fortunes of his people. Ultimately, this will take place when Jesus Christ rules from David’s throne in his millennial kingdom. On that day, God will establish justice and joy universally and comprehensively. In the meantime, God’s people are to model his rule in a sinful world.” This Scripture, possibly, is prophetic in more than one way. Not only, did Jesus come to the earth and save all who would believe, but this, also, looks to the time when physical Israel comes back into the land. This further indicates the coming of the Lord for the church {Zion}.

**QUESTIONS**

1. The fool has said in his heart, \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_.
2. What is one undeniable proof that there is God?
3. What is the strange thing about growing a plant?
4. Our only hope is \_\_\_.
5. In the days of Noah, God looked down to the earth and was sorry about what?
6. God could not find \_\_\_ righteous men in Sodom and Gomorrah.
7. What would God think, if He looked down and saw our society?
8. What has ruined many marriages?
9. What must Christian men and women do to change things for the better?
10. Who are the workers of iniquity in verse 4?
11. Why is it dangerous for Christians to fellowship with those of iniquity?
12. God is in the generation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Describe what makes us righteous.
14. In what ways is Psalms chapter 14 verse 7 prophetic?