

PSALMS 14-24

His Way
Is Perfect

CLARENCE SEXTON



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CHRISTIAN
PUBLICATIONS

Royal Reading

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His Way Is Perfect

FIRST EDITION

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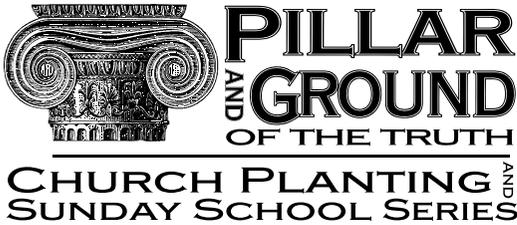


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Crown Christian Publications

Powell, Tennessee 37849

CrownChristianPublications.com

FaithfortheFamily.com

ISBN: 978-1-58981-350-2

Layout and Design by Ryan Keiter & Ringo Pepin

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Printed in the United States of America

Dedication

To all those who make “His way” their way.

There was a defining moment in my life as a believer. It was a moment of dying to self and making “His way” my way. This is renewed each day as I yield to Him.

Carrence Sutton
Feb 5:42

Introduction

As you read each of these psalms, may the Lord speak to you. Listen to His voice with a determination to obey Him. This book has been written with the intention for the readers “*to teach others also*” (II Timothy 2:2).

Clarence Sexton
Feb 5:42

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PSALM 14:1-3

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.

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

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

CHAPTER ONE

WHEN FOOLS SPEAK



As we study the Word of God, we must place the emphasis where God places the emphasis. The message of this psalm is found not once but three times in the Bible. The fourteenth Psalm is repeated in the fifty-third Psalm and in the third chapter of Romans. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1-6,

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. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD. There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. Ye have shamed the

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*counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.
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.*

In Psalm 53:1-6, again the Bible says,

*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.
Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity:
there is none that doeth good. God looked down from
heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were
any that did understand, that did seek God. Every
one of them is gone back: they are altogether become
filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.
Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat
up my people as they eat bread: they have not called
upon God. There were they in great fear, where no
fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him
that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to
shame, because God hath despised them. Oh that the
salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God
bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall
rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.*

The Word of God says in Romans 3:10-18,

*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not
one: there is none that understandeth, there is none
that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the
way, they are together become unprofitable; there is
none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an
open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used
deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose
mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: their feet
are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are*

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in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes.

In the fourteenth Psalm, note the first expression, “*The fool hath said...*” Many people speak as fools. When I was just a boy, my mother cautioned me about calling people fools. She taught me a good lesson about not misusing that word. But when God calls a man a fool, we ought to take notice. The Bible says, “*The fool hath said...*” These fools are bold. As they speak, we are able to identify them and understand that they have made themselves fools in the sight of God.

Fools Mock Sin.

God’s Word makes much mention of fools. In Proverbs 14:9 the Bible says, “*Fools make a mock at sin.*” Sin seduces and saddens people. Sin wrecks lives, ruins homes, and destroys families; but fools make light of it. Fools mock sin.

Fools Live Only for This World.

In Luke chapter twelve, we are taught that fools live only for this world. They do not think of the world to come. Our Lord gives us a parable using the word fool in Luke 12:16-20,

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night

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thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

God's Word teaches that the man who lives only for this life, thinks nothing of the world to come, makes no eternal investment, and does not trust Christ with his soul is a fool. He may be well-respected in his community, but he is still a fool.

When the man in this parable died, no doubt, mourners came from great distances. They thought a prominent figure had left them; they were remorseful about such a person leaving the community. But this man, though he was successful on earth, lived and died without Jesus Christ. He was a fool.

Fools Are Hearers Only.

In Matthew chapter seven, our Lord concludes the Sermon on the Mount with this particular story. He says in Matthew 7:24-29,

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

The point of this story is very simple. The Lord Jesus said, "I have been speaking to you. I have been teaching you truths that are

vital and eternal. If you hear them and obey them, you are wise; if you only hear and you do not obey, you are foolish.”

How many times have we heard the truths of God’s Word, but have not been obedient to these truths? Think of the people who have never heard what we have heard. They do not know the truth of the coming of Christ. They do not know the truth of eternal life. They do not know the truth of the inerrancy of Scripture. They have never been challenged to win souls and live godly lives. They have never been told about separation from the world unto the Lord. They have not heard these things. We are so very accountable to God! It is foolish to hear and not obey.

THE ATHEISM OF A FOOL

According to Psalm 14:1, the fool speaks and says, “*There is no God.*” This is atheism. We are living in a day when people say that the more intelligent you are, the less you are supposed to know for sure. There is nothing becoming or admirable about atheism. There is nothing intelligent about denying the existence of God. It troubles me greatly that people in positions of influence would use their power to attempt to turn the hearts of the young from Almighty God.

Did you know that, according to James 2:19, the demons know that God is real? Demons know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The very demons of hell know that torment awaits them. When a man declares from his heart that there is no God, he is worse than a demon. At least a demon will acknowledge that God is real, that Christ is real, and that hell is real. If a man declares there is no God, he is worse than a demon. This is vile and wicked.



*There is nothing
intelligent about
denying the
existence of God.*

When Fools Speak

In Romans chapter one, we discover the path that the fool has followed. In Romans 1:19 the Bible says, “*Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.*” This speaks of conscience. Every man’s conscience bears witness to the existence of God. The fool denies the knowledge of God within himself and will not hear the testimony of his own conscience.

The Bible continues in Romans 1:20-22,

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.

This passage speaks of creation. Every human being, through the witnesses of conscience and creation, knows there is a God. Of course, the Bible reveals to us specifically the nature of the only true and living God. A fool disregards the light of conscience and of creation and says, “*There is no God.*” The atheist determines to rid his mind of the knowledge of God.

Someone may say, “When I was young and simpleminded, I leaned on the crutch of Christianity; but now I know too much. I am intelligent. My mind has been stretched. I don’t need that anymore.” “*Professing themselves to be wise,*” God says, “*they became fools.*” In reality, our journey ought to bring us to simple, childlike faith in Jesus Christ.



*The atheist
determines to
rid his mind
of the knowledge
of God.*

THE AFFECTIONS OF A FOOL

Does a fool have affections? Does he care? If so, what does a man who says there is no God care about? The Bible says in Psalm 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.”*

Atheism goes hand in hand with the abominable behavior that is so prevalent throughout our land. In Romans chapter one, we see that when men deny God, He declares them to be fools. They then proceed immediately into abominable behavior. Their affections are turned toward abominable things.

Immorality is always preceded by idolatry. In our nation, we have removed the foundation for life. The fixed moral standard is gone. We are living in a culture of relativism where people have given up what is decent and holy. The unbeliever shouts, “I will do what I believe is right. I will behave the way I think is right. I am my own god. I am my own boss. I will make my own rules.”

The world says, “We are going to have better lives, a more enlightened age. We are climbing to the top. We are the most intelligent generation that ever lived. We have more knowledge than any race or any group of human beings that ever existed.” At the same time, we witness the most abominable behavior. Our nation has reached an all-time low.

If we are living in the most intelligent, most enlightened age in the history of humanity, why do we see such terrible immorality? It is because the affections of men and women who say there is no God have turned toward abominable things. All restraint is removed.



*Atheism goes
hand in hand with
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When Fools Speak

I once went to a school to speak with a few of the faculty members about the wrong behavior of some young people. One of the faculty



*Who do fools
target? They
target the people
of God.*

members, a lady, said, “Reverend, I don’t agree with you.” I asked, “What do you mean?” She replied, “I don’t mind their behavior at all. I like to see this animal nature coming out in them.” Even now, I can remember her face, and the comments that she made, and the bragging that she did about what I thought was disrespectful behavior. You

see, that animal, unrestrained behavior is destroying a generation of young people.

Atheism does not build strong lives. Atheism does not make a nation stronger, because the affection of a fool is for abominable things.

THE ACTIONS OF A FOOL

The actions of a fool take a particular direction. You would think that people who say there is no God would not care about God’s people. The world says, “Do not bother us and we will not bother you. We will just live and let live. If what we want to do does not hurt anyone else, then leave us alone.” They may talk that way, but that is not the way they act. God’s Word tells us how they behave.

The Bible says in Psalm 14:3-4,

*They are all gone aside, they are all together
become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not
one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge?
who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not
upon the LORD.*

When Fools Speak

God says in the second verse that He is looking and searching for those who will follow Him, but no one is seeking God. God sees that the actions of these fools are evil and are directed against God's people. He said, *"Who eat up my people as they eat bread."*

Who do fools target? They target the people of God. The heart of the man who says there is no God, who lives a foolish life, who is an atheist, whose affection is vile, has actions against God's people. He wants to eat up and destroy them. This is what is in his heart.

God's children are not left on this earth defenseless. If you read this psalm carefully, you are going to discover that as they try to eat us, they cannot chew us up. Suddenly, something happens. They get their jaw stopped on God. It is like having a rock in their food. That Rock is Jesus Christ!

The Bible says in Psalm 14:3-4,

They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

God says, "Don't they understand anything? They are against My people. They are trying to destroy My people. Don't they know that I am going to step in when they start trying to work against My people?" The Bible says in verse five, *"There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous."*



If we are living in the most intelligent, most enlightened age in the history of humanity, why do we see such terrible immorality? It is because the affections of men and women who say there is no God have turned toward abominable things.

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When these fools start chewing on God's people, God says, "Don't they have any knowledge at all? Don't they know that I am in the midst of the generation of My people? They are not going to get by with that."

The Lord has not left us here as orphans. Our God is with us to take care of us. I think we, as Christians, have developed the mentality that Christianity is shameful and disgraceful. We need to raise the blood-stained banner of Jesus Christ high, and say we are not ashamed to be Bible-believing Christians. We must not flinch in the face of their opposition.

The fool speaks. When he speaks, you see he is an atheist. When he speaks, you see that his affection is for vile things. When he speaks, you see that his actions are against God's people; but God always takes care of His people.

THE ANSWER FROM GOD

How does God answer the fool? This fool has continued talking for thousands of years. It seems as though he has not been answered, but the Bible says in Psalm 14:6-7,

Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. 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.

I know there is a historical context here. I am not exactly sure of the event that is being referred to, but I am absolutely sure of the application of it. Perhaps it speaks about bringing the ark back to Israel. Perhaps it speaks about the restoration of the kingdom. But when I read the expression in the seventh verse, "*Oh that the*

When Fools Speak

salvation of Israel were come out of Zion,” I know the salvation of Israel is the coming of Jesus Christ.

What is the answer to the atheists? It is found in Revelation chapter six. The fools are high and mighty. They are bold, and seemingly afraid of nothing. They are eating up God’s people, doing what they please, living in abomination, and raising up abominable people. God says in Revelation 6:16-17 that when they see all the horror on the earth, they will cry and say to the mountains and rocks, *“Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

What is God’s answer to these fools? It is the coming of Jesus Christ. In the second chapter of Philippians, God says that the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth as the God-man, robed in flesh. He became man without ceasing to be God. He was a man, yet without sin. He became a servant—not just a servant, but an obedient servant. He was not just obedient, but obedient unto death. This was not just any death, but the shameful, humiliating death of the cross.

The Bible says in Philippians 2:9-11,

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

When God says that *“every knee”* shall bow, He means it. Everyone you have ever heard or read about who was against God, everyone who speaks against God and the things of God, is included. This is the answer to the atheist.

Take heart—we are on the winning side! They can shout and carry on all they want to. The fool hath said, and the fool will keep

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on saying, but we know the answer. The answer is that Jesus Christ, the salvation of Zion, is coming.

It is shameful to think that we know the Lord of glory, we know God Almighty, and yet we are content to live weak, anemic lives.



*What is God's
answer to these
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Jesus Christ.*

There are many fools who rise up boldly against the Lord. Dear friend, rise up and be counted for Christ. Declare with holy boldness, "I am for God and for God's Word."

There is no way to avoid hearing the wrong crowd. They are on the news. They are on the front page of the paper. What about our crowd? I think sometimes it is enough to make God weep that with all we know, it is hard to get people to rise up and tell even one person about the liberating freedom they can have through the blood of Jesus Christ.

If what we are facing today does not bring us to our knees, if it does not cause us to rise up in the power of the Holy Spirit to serve God, if it does not challenge us, I do not believe that America will ever have another opportunity. This is our day to shine because the night is growing darker, and the light is needed more and more.

We need to determine, by God's grace, that in our own world, in our own sphere of life, we are going to be bold for Christ in our witness. If we really believe what we say what we believe, there should not be a church service that we have not invited someone to attend with us. Think of what we would accomplish simply by doing that one thing. It is time to rise up. God is calling us. This is our hour. Let us make the most of it.