

PSALMS 14-24

His Way Is Perfect

CLARENCE SEXTON



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His Way Is Perfect

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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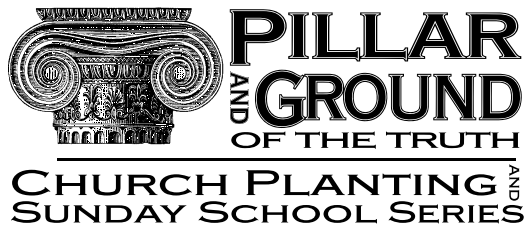
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HIS WAY IS PERFECT

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INTRODUCTION TO THE TEACHER'S GUIDE

This Teacher's Guide is designed to assist those who will be leading in the study of these Bible lessons. You will find helpful information in the front of this book that will be of great value as you prepare to teach each lesson.

- ◆ Preparing to Teach the Lesson
- ◆ Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher
- ◆ Tips for Teaching the Bible
- ◆ Goals for This Series

After the introductory material, you will find preparation instructions and Class Teaching Notes for all thirteen lessons in this series. At the conclusion of this book, information is given for those who are interested in additional materials. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will give you divine enabling as you faithfully teach the Word of God.

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON

As we study to teach God's Word, we must realize that thorough preparation is extremely important. The teacher should teach from an overflow. The truths of each lesson should make an impact in the teacher's life before being communicated to others. Here are some suggestions for preparing to teach the lessons in this series.

Begin Preparation Early

For many teachers, preparation is something that begins and ends in the same evening. Usually, that evening is the one before the lesson is to be given. If you begin to prepare early, you will have the opportunity to "live" with the lesson throughout the week. Many times we do not get the full impact of Bible truths because we do not give the Lord the opportunity to develop these truths in our own lives.

Look to Christ

In our Bible study and teaching, our goal is not to know information; our goal is to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Begin your preparation time by "*looking unto Jesus.*" We need to come to God's Word in faith believing that He is going to speak to us. Take time to commune with the Lord Jesus and get your heart in tune with Him.

Read the Bible Background Reading

Read the background Bible passages that are given for each lesson. Be sure to read each passage twice.

1. Read the first time for general understanding. Look up any unfamiliar words or phrases.
2. Read the second time to mark key words and key expressions that speak to your heart.

Read the Bible Lesson

After reading and marking the Scripture passages which correspond to the lesson, read the Bible lesson from *His Way Is Perfect* that corresponds with the lesson you are studying. As you read, mark key statements or paragraphs so that you can review them later.

Answer the Questions

In the Class Teaching Notes, you will find preparation questions for each lesson. After reading the lesson, answer these questions to reinforce the things you have read. These are identical to the questions that the students are given in the *Study Guide*.

Teacher's Preparation

Notice the Lesson Aims

In each lesson, you should not try to teach many things, but rather teach a *few* things well. Give careful attention to the “lesson aims” which help to identify the key truths that are to be taught in each lesson. Keep these aims before you during your preparation time. They will help you to communicate the key truths in the lesson.

Write Out Ideas for Application

A good Bible teacher will always strive to apply the truths of God’s Word to his audience. Before teaching, write out specific ideas for applying this lesson to your particular audience. We can teach people of all ages and stages in life to bring their burdens to Christ. Make your application especially strong in the conclusion of the lesson.

Use Illustrations

The Lord Jesus often taught great truths through the use of practical illustrations. Perhaps the best illustrations are those that come directly from the Bible. Take time to reflect upon the lesson and make note of biblical illustrations that could help you teach more effectively. You may also think of some experiences from your life or the lives of other Christians that would help to illustrate a truth in the lesson.

Teacher's Preparation

Personal illustrations should always be truthful and practical; at times, they may be thought-provoking or humorous as well.

Use the Class Teaching Notes

Class Teaching Notes have been prepared for each lesson in this series. These notes are identical in format to the *Study Guide*. The page numbers on the Class Teaching Notes correspond to the page numbers in the *Study Guide*.

Be sure to make any handwritten notes on the Class Teaching Notes that you feel will assist you in teaching the lesson. You may wish to mark down personal illustrations, application ideas, or quotes and key expressions from the book *His Way Is Perfect*.

The Class Teaching Notes will be your aid as you teach the Bible lesson. The Class Teaching Notes are designed to be removed from the *Teacher's Guide* and placed neatly in your Bible. When teaching these lessons, do not carry the entire *Teacher's Guide* or the book *His Way Is Perfect* to class; only carry your Bible and the Class Teaching Notes.

Teacher's Preparation

Review

When you walk into class, you should know thoroughly what you are going to teach. Plan a time to review the Class Teaching Notes and Scripture reading. If you take the time to review the lesson, the things you have studied will be more firmly planted in your heart.

Conclude With a Time of Prayer

- ◆ Pray for the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Pray for a spiritual understanding of God's Word.
- ◆ Pray for your pastor and church to be strengthened.
- ◆ Pray for lost souls to be saved.

Ten Laws for the Sunday School Teacher

1. Prepare early for Sunday School.
2. Recognize the authority of God's Word.
3. Enter into study with prayer.
4. Know the material comprehensively before teaching in parts.
5. Use proper teaching methods.
6. Take your class to the Scripture often.
7. Help your class think biblically and use biblical language.
8. Make strong application in the conclusion of the lesson.
9. Encourage Bible memory.
10. Find a way to encourage daily preparation for next week's lesson.

Clarence Sexton

TIPS FOR TEACHING THE BIBLE

As teachers of God's Word, we have a desire to be as effective as possible because we know that people need to hear and understand the Bible. You do not have to obtain a formal education to be a good teacher. Here are several suggestions that will help you to become a more effective teacher.

Always Begin and End on Time

This shows great respect and consideration for others. The teacher should arrive to class early and should be prepared to teach before he arrives.

Do Not Be Afraid to Ask Questions

You may ask questions to the entire class or to individuals. Some questions may take time for people to answer. You may need to reword a question to lead people to the correct answer.

Get Every Member of the Class Involved

This can be done in a variety of ways including the following:

- ◆ Allowing the class or class members to read Scripture
- ◆ Asking questions that call for a response
- ◆ Encouraging class members to write in the *Study Guide*

Maintain Eye Contact With Your Class

Many teachers fail in this matter because they are bound to their notes or to a book they have carried to class. When teaching, carry only your Bible with the Class Teaching Notes neatly placed in it. Use the notes to help you stay on track and teach in a logical order, but do not give your notes more attention than your students.

Use Variety in Your Teaching

No one wants to be part of a Sunday School class that is cold and dead. You can make a class much more lively and interesting by varying your teaching methods and styles. This can be done in many ways including the following:

- ◆ Using object lessons or visual aids when teaching
- ◆ Allowing students to answer or discuss questions
- ◆ Using an illustration to grab the students' attention at the beginning of the lesson
- ◆ Varying your tone of voice (Do not speak in a monotone voice.)

Make Specific Applications to Your Students

As you are teaching, work diligently to apply the truths you are teaching to the students in your class. They will find joy in *obeying* God's Word. Be clear and specific as you seek to show the students how the lesson applies to them. At the conclusion of the lesson, call for definite decisions; encourage each student to write these decisions in the *Study Guide* or in his Bible.

God can speak to the hearts of men, and He will speak through us as we are yielded to Him and filled with His Spirit.

Keep the Bible Central

As Baptists we believe that our sole authority for faith and practice is God's Word. When you teach, your students should know that you have taught them God's Word. Take people to the Scriptures often and read the passages given in each lesson. You should teach in such a way that every student feels as if he needs a Bible in order to participate. Keep the Bible central in every question, in every discussion, and in every lecture.

Be Filled With the Holy Spirit of God

God can enable all of His children to do the work He has called them to do. For the Christian, the filling of the Spirit is not an option; it is a command (Ephesians 5:18). The Lord Jesus said in John 15:5, "*Without me ye can do nothing.*" We often try to do for ourselves what we are not capable of doing.

GOALS FOR THIS SERIES

- ◆ *TO DETERMINE BY GOD'S GRACE NOT TO BE MOVED FROM THE TRUTH AND TO FINISH OUR COURSE STRONG*
- ◆ *TO BE REMINDED THAT ONE DAY EVERY KNEE WILL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD*
- ◆ *TO HAVE OUR EYES OPENED TO SEE THE ABUNDANT BLESSINGS THAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS*
- ◆ *TO SEE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS OUR CONQUERING SAVIOUR WHO HAS ALREADY WON THE VICTORY FOR US*
- ◆ *TO EMPHASIZE THE MIGHTY WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY CHRIST ON CALVARY*

Preparation Questions for Lesson 1

WHEN FOOLS SPEAK

Background Reading

Psalm 14; Psalm 53; Romans 3:10-18; Proverbs 14:9;
Luke 12:16-20; Matthew 7:24-29; Romans 1:19-22;
Revelation 6:16-17; Philippians 2:9-11

MONDAY

According to Proverbs 14:9, what is the attitude of a fool toward sin?

TUESDAY

From the story given in Luke 12:16-20, what kind of man is a fool in the eyes of God?

WEDNESDAY

Read Matthew 7:24-29. What distinguishes a wise man from a foolish man?

THURSDAY

In Psalm 14:1-3, what do we learn about the behavior of those who say that there is no God?

FRIDAY

According to Psalm 14:4, how do the workers of iniquity treat the people of God?

SATURDAY

Compare Psalm 14:6 and Philippians 2:9-11. What will take place that will silence forever those who say there is no God?

WHEN FOOLS SPEAK

1

Teacher's Preparation

According to Psalm 14:1, the fool speaks and says, "*There is no God.*" This is atheism. The atheist determines to rid his mind of the knowledge of God. We are living in a day when people say that the more intelligent you are, the less you are supposed to know for sure. However, there is nothing intelligent about denying the existence of God.

Bible Background Reading

Psalm 14; Psalm 53; Romans 3:10-18;
Proverbs 14:9; Luke 12:16-20; Matthew 7:24-29;
Romans 1:19-22; Revelation 6:16-17;
Philippians 2:9-11

Bible Lesson Reading

Read chapter one in *His Way Is Perfect* by Clarence Sexton.

Lesson Aims

To show a description of a fool from God's Word

To see that fools boldly deny the existence of God and seek to rid their minds of the knowledge of God

To recognize that those who say there is no God have their affections turned toward abominable things

To realize that those who are against God are also against His people and seek to devour and destroy the children of God

To know that all those who deny God will one day bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

To stand up boldly for Christ and let our light shine in this dark world

WHEN FOOLS SPEAK

1

Teacher's Notes

Scripture Memory

"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."

Psalm 14:1



In the fourteenth Psalm, note the first expression, *"The fool hath said..."* Many people speak as fools. 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.

In Proverbs 14:9 the Bible says, *"Fools make a mock at sin."* Sin wrecks lives, ruins homes, and destroys families; but fools make light of it.

FOOLS LIVE ONLY FOR THIS WORLD.

Our Lord gives us a parable using the word fool in Luke 12:16-20. 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.


FOOLS ARE HEARERS ONLY.

Our Lord says in Matthew 7:24-29 that those who hear His Word and obey are wise, but those who hear and do not obey are foolish.

Notes

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. However, there is nothing intelligent about denying the existence of God.



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

In Romans chapter one, we discover the path that the fool has followed. We learn in Romans 1:19-22 that every human being, through the witnesses of conscience and creation, knows there is a God. A fool disregards the light of conscience and of creation and says, *“There is no 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, *“They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”*

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 things that are abominable. Atheism goes hand in hand with the abominable behavior that is so prevalent throughout our land.

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



God’s children are not left on this earth defenseless.

The Actions of a Fool

The actions of a fool take a particular direction. You would think that atheists would say, *“Do not bother us and we will not bother you.”* They may talk that way, but that is not the way they act. In verses three and four, God’s Word tells us how they behave. Who do fools target? They target the people of God. They want to eat up and destroy God’s children.

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 notice what the Bible says in Psalm 14:7. God says, *“Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!”* The salvation of Israel is the coming of Jesus Christ. What is God’s answer to these fools? It is the coming of Jesus Christ.

The fool will keep on speaking, but we know the answer. The answer is that Jesus Christ, the salvation of Zion, is coming.

Preparation Questions for Lesson 2

HE SHALL NEVER BE MOVED

Background Reading

Psalm 15; Matthew 7:21-23; Ephesians 2:8-10;
II Timothy 4:7

MONDAY

Who is the only person who qualifies himself to be the answer to the questions in Psalm 15:1?

TUESDAY

List the things given in Psalm 15:2-5 that God says we are to do and not to do.

WEDNESDAY

Read Matthew 7:21-23. Why is it that those who professed the name of the Lord could not enter into heaven?

THURSDAY

In Ephesians 2:8-10, what is God's teaching concerning our works and our salvation?

FRIDAY

Note the word "*doeth*" in Psalm 15:5. What is the significance of this word in this verse?

SATURDAY

What is the promise of God in Psalm 15:5? Who can claim this promise?