

# Psalm 14: The Fatal Flaw of Atheism

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## Psalm 14

- <sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."  
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.
- <sup>2</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,  
to see if there are any who understand,  
who seek after God.
- <sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;  
there is none who does good,  
not even one.
- <sup>4</sup> Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers  
who eat up my people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?
- <sup>5</sup> There they are in great terror,  
for God is with the generation of the righteous.
- <sup>6</sup> You would shame the plans of the poor,  
but the Lord is his refuge.
- <sup>7</sup> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

## Introduction

Why do people reject God?

- let us hear from people themselves on Twitter!

1) Raghav Gakhar

"And that's why I am an atheist because I don't see any logics behind these rules in religion, one should do whatever he/she likes."

2) nitchen

"I don't believe in anything I am an Atheist. I do not believe in God, because I always say to myself, 'Why are there disabled and sick people who suffer when there's a God?'"

3) Tsiehta

"My take on religion is: They can't all be right, but they can all be wrong. That is one of the many reasons why I am an atheist, they are all wrong :-) Religion: Making people do stupid stuff for far too long."

4) R3pandas

"If you want to know why I am an atheist, it because of theodicy, the problem of evil"

- these reasons for \_\_\_\_\_ God are nothing new

- people who \_\_\_\_\_ God do not understand that they have been blinded by sin

- they are in a metaphorical \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and they cannot \_\_\_\_\_ life outside of that cage because that is all they have ever known
- this Psalm reveals to us the serious consequences of \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord
- if you are listening to Psalm 14 today, please take the \_\_\_\_\_ of God seriously!
- do not be like Lot's sons-in-law who thought the \_\_\_\_\_ of God was a laughing stock
- the Lord is a Holy God and therefore the Lord carries out His holy \_\_\_\_\_
  
- this Psalm is sometimes labeled as a Psalm of "Lamentation"
- this means that David is \_\_\_\_\_ those who reject the Lord as their God
- but this Psalm is also sometimes labeled as a Psalm of "\_\_\_\_\_"
- this means that David is speaking forth wisdom from God concerning the sinfulness of the \_\_\_\_\_
  
- but there is also another label that I would give this Psalm
- I often refer to this Psalm and others Psalms like 5, 10, 36, 53 as "\_\_\_\_\_ of Sin Psalms"
- this means that these Psalms are written to \_\_\_\_\_ us the horror and the danger of sin
- these "Sinfulness of Sin Psalms" are all quoted in Romans 3:10-20
- this is where Paul speaks about our need for Jesus Christ because of our \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- we have \_\_\_\_\_ the Law of God
- this is the whole \_\_\_\_\_ why we need the work of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross!
  
- Psalm 14 was written by David during a time when he was dealing with sinful \_\_\_\_\_
- this Psalm was written in the midst of David dealing with difficult people
- have you ever experienced \_\_\_\_\_ people?
- well if you have this Psalm is for you!

- 1) (14:1a)     **The Fool**
- 2) (14:1b-4)   **Foolish Living (11 Actions)**
- 3) (14:5-7)    **Faithful God**

### 1) (14:1a) The Fool

(14:1a) The fool says in his \_\_\_\_\_, "There is no God."

- in this verse we get a clear definition of a "fool"
- this is the Hebrew word "Nabal"
- and of course when you hear "Nabal" you think of the great \_\_\_\_\_ in the event in 1 Samuel 25!
- remember that Nabal had no interest in helping David and brushed him off
- David was going to completely obliterate Nabal and his \_\_\_\_\_
- but Abigail, the wife of Nabal \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of her family
- do you remember what Abigail says about Nabal?

**1 Samuel 25:25** Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

- Nabal is spared from the wrath of David but the Lord strikes him dead because he is a \_\_\_\_\_!

- the Book of Proverbs also speaks extensively about fools and \_\_\_\_\_ behavior
- Proverbs 10:23 – doing \_\_\_\_\_ is a joke to a fool
- Proverbs 10:23 - a fool does not take sin \_\_\_\_\_
- Proverbs 15:5 – a fool \_\_\_\_\_ his father’s instruction
- this means that a fool \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom and clear teaching
- a fool in Proverbs is someone who is arrogant and \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 30:32** If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising \_\_\_\_\_, put your hand on your mouth.

- a fool at the very basic level in the Book of Proverbs is a person who \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God because they are \_\_\_\_\_
- the fool \_\_\_\_\_ they knows what is best simply because they think they are the best
- they are kind of like a Mr. Perfect who does not \_\_\_\_\_ oneself to the Word of God because they see no need for God

- Psalm 14 says something very similar about a \_\_\_\_\_
- the fool \_\_\_\_\_ the very existence of God and they declare this from their very being, their own heart
- this means that they hold \_\_\_\_\_ to the confession that God does not \_\_\_\_\_
- they embrace boldly the belief that God does \_\_\_\_\_ exist and if God did exist He certainly would not hold me to account for my \_\_\_\_\_
- I often hear stuff like this from people, they do not believe in Jesus but they believe in nature and they just need to stay in tune with nature
- but that is a subjective and \_\_\_\_\_ view of not only nature but also of the God who created all things

- this is the fatal flaw of atheism: atheists are blinded by their own \_\_\_\_\_ and their own love of sin and so they cannot see God’s handy work before their eyes

- this is what sin does to us as humans -- we are \_\_\_\_\_ by sinful desires and we build up walls or excuses so that we can boldly embrace the belief that God’s greatness is not evident or \_\_\_\_\_

- we need to be clear the fool in Psalm 14:1 can be someone who is extremely smart, can have a high IQ and even been called a genius by society
- the fool in this Psalm is not a stupid person in the sense that society calls stupid
- the fool is someone who \_\_\_\_\_ God and His glory which is right before their eyes!

- they reject the majesty of God that we see in Psalm 19

**Psalm 19:1-3** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

- but not only do they reject the Lord, their lives are in constant \_\_\_\_\_ against the Holy Lord who made them and we see this in our next section!

## 2) (14:1b-4) Foolish Living (11 Actions)

(14:1b)

### 1) They are corrupt,

- the word “corrupt” in this context refers to \_\_\_\_\_ behavior that is against the Lord

- this same word is used to describe the \_\_\_\_\_ behavior of those who were involved in pre-flood wickedness

**Genesis 6:12** And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- this is behavior, or lifestyle, has no regard for the \_\_\_\_\_ or the grace of God

## 2) they do abominable deeds,

- the deeds that these people commit are an abominat \_\_\_\_\_

- this means that these deeds are \_\_\_\_\_ or detestable to the Lord

- this word is used to speak about the evil behavior of King Ahab and his \_\_\_\_\_ in going after idols

**1 Kings 21:26** He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.)

## 3) there is none who does good.

- these people do not live out the "good"

- the good here refers to God's good \_\_\_\_\_ that He has given us

- God has given us His good instructions in His word, but these people reject the good \_\_\_\_\_ of God and do their own thing

(14:2)

## 4) The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand,

- this verse starts out by speaking about the glory and \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- the Lord looks down from heaven and this \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord is from heaven

- the Lord is a Holy God who \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven and He is Majestic

- this means that the Lord is too \_\_\_\_\_ to look at sin and is repelled by sin

- this phrase, "the Lord looks down", also shows up in three important spots in the Book of Genesis

- this phrase is used in the flood, \_\_\_\_\_ of Babel and the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah events

- these three events are serious examples of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

- but first the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ what is going on

- this does not mean that the Lord is not all-knowing but this reveals that He observes and \_\_\_\_\_ before He \_\_\_\_\_

**Genesis 6:12** And God \_\_\_\_\_ the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- remember humans wanted to build a \_\_\_\_\_ in Genesis 11, to make a name for themselves, but the Lord came down to see this building because it is so small

**Genesis 11:5** And the LORD came down to \_\_\_\_\_ the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

- finally this observation of the Lord is used in Sodom and Gomorrah

**Genesis 18:21** I will go down to \_\_\_\_\_ whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

- in Psalm 14:2 the Lord looks down to see if any understand

- this word "understand" refers to any having the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- of course these people rejected the Lord so they would have no \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

### 5) who seek after God.

- this word "seek" does not mean that the Lord is hidden from them or the Lord cannot be easily \_\_\_\_\_ and it is not a hide and seek game
- it means \_\_\_\_\_, turn from sin, trust in the Lord and cry out to the Lord in prayer
- really to seek the Lord means to \_\_\_\_\_ from sin and to trust in the person and work of the Lord Jesus

(14:3)

### 6) They have all turned aside;

- often this word "turned aside" refers to turning aside from sin but in this context it means that they have turned aside from the \_\_\_\_\_ or they have turned aside from the teaching of the Lord
- they have gone in the opposite direction of the Lord and have \_\_\_\_\_ Him and His ways

### 7) together they have become corrupt;

- they have become corrupt in the sense that their lives are \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the Lord
- they have \_\_\_\_\_ against the Word of God

### 8) there is none who does good, not even one.

- David has already said this but he says it again just for emphasis
- he really wants us to know that absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ does good
- David is teaching the total depravity of \_\_\_\_\_
- this means that we as humans can do nothing good \_\_\_\_\_ from the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the power of God the Holy Spirit

(14:4)

### 9) Have they no knowledge,

- the "knowledge" that David is referring to here is not common knowledge or basic human understanding
- this lack of knowledge does not mean they failed their grade 12
- David is referring to the knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_
- they \_\_\_\_\_ God and the knowledge of God
- when it comes to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, they want nothing to do with that

### 10) all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread

- but we also see how these " \_\_\_\_\_ " treat the people of God
- they eat them like bread
- bread was a staple food during the time of David
- they \_\_\_\_\_ the people of God with actions and words like it is no big deal -- just like one eats bread

### 11) and do not call upon the LORD?

- they do not call out to the Lord in faith or in \_\_\_\_\_ or confession of their sins
- "to call upon the Lord" means that you are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and His work of deliverance from the consequences of your sins

### 3) (14:5-7) Faithful God

#### (14:5) There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

- they are in great \_\_\_\_\_ because the Lord is a holy God who \_\_\_\_\_ sin

- who can stand before the Lord who is holy and majestic? Absolutely no one!
- God is with this generation who is \_\_\_\_\_
- the righteous are the complete \_\_\_\_\_ of what we have seen in Psalm 14:1-4!
- they \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord for mercy and \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord for grace
- by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit they do good, \_\_\_\_\_ corruption and seek to live for the Lord!

**(14:6) You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.**

- the wicked also \_\_\_\_\_ the poor
- note that the \_\_\_\_\_ are considered alongside of the righteous in this Psalm
- but the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ for His people
- the Lord is a \_\_\_\_\_ for the people of God!

**(14:7) Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ prayer here has been fulfilled
- he prays that salvation would come out of \_\_\_\_\_ or Israel
- who comes out of Israel to bring salvation? \_\_\_\_\_
- David prays that this would happen and it does happen by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- remember that Jesus is named \_\_\_\_\_ because He will save people from their sins
- the very meaning of the name Jesus is to \_\_\_\_\_

**Matthew 1:21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

- do you see the end \_\_\_\_\_ of the work and deliverance of the Lord?
- there are two results: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) gladness
- this is how the people of God respond to the grace of God
- they are \_\_\_\_\_ and joyful
- joy and gladness flow out of the work of the Lord on \_\_\_\_\_ of sinful people
- how much more do we need to \_\_\_\_\_ upon these truths right here!
- many Christians are not very \_\_\_\_\_ or joyful, they have allowed fear of government and \_\_\_\_\_ of a virus to dampen the joy they ought to have in the Lord
- but have you experienced this \_\_\_\_\_ from Zion? You are \_\_\_\_\_ to be joyful!
- have you experienced this \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ?
- have you experienced \_\_\_\_\_ from the consequences of your sin? You are called to be glad!

## Application

### 1) We are All Sinners

- this Psalm reminds us of all our \_\_\_\_\_ flaws as humans – we are all sinful
- this includes \_\_\_\_\_ except the Lord Jesus Christ who was without sin

- hear Romans 3 and the indictment against all humanity

**Romans 3:10-20** as it is written: " \_\_\_\_\_ is righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> no \_\_\_\_\_ understands; no one seeks for God. <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does \_\_\_\_\_, not even one." <sup>13</sup> "Their throat is an open \_\_\_\_\_; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." <sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to \_\_\_\_\_ blood; <sup>16</sup> in their paths are \_\_\_\_\_ and misery, <sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they have not known." <sup>18</sup> "There is no \_\_\_\_\_ of God before their eyes." <sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the \_\_\_\_\_ says it

speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held \_\_\_\_\_ to God. <sup>20</sup> For by works of the law no human being will be \_\_\_\_\_ in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

- Paul in Romans 1 explained to us that all Gentiles are \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul in Romans 2 explained to us that all Jews are \_\_\_\_\_
- in Romans 3 Paul included \_\_\_\_\_ and Gentiles together as sinners
  
- no one escapes this, although people try and \_\_\_\_\_ their sin, they even lie about their sin
- but the truth is sure and real, we as humans are all \_\_\_\_\_
  
- be honest about yourself, \_\_\_\_\_ yourself not according to the rest of the horrible people on the face of the earth
- if you compare yourself to Hitler you might start to feel good about yourself but that will not make you \_\_\_\_\_ before a Holy God
- be honest before the Lord and His Word and see that you are \_\_\_\_\_ with sin and need the grace of Jesus Christ

## 2) We All Need Jesus Christ

- \_\_\_\_\_ has come out of Zion in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ has come to \_\_\_\_\_ sinners of which we all are the worst (1 Timothy 1:15)
- Jesus came not to save the righteous but bring the sinners to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 9:13)
- in this Psalm we see our \_\_\_\_\_ for the Cross but we also see the beauty of the Cross of Christ
  
- the work of Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ are amazing!
- Jesus goes to the Cross so that we might be saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sin
- Jesus takes upon Himself the sin that we deserve to \_\_\_\_\_ for ourselves so that we might have new \_\_\_\_\_ in Him

**Romans 3:25-26** whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.

- if you are in Christ does this bring you joy?
- if you have \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ is this the reason for your gladness?
- does Jesus bring you joy because of His \_\_\_\_\_ on the Cross?
  
- if you are outside the Lord Jesus and still in your sins, \_\_\_\_\_ the despair that your actions have caused
- you are \_\_\_\_\_ from God and fellowship with God
- see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God but also see the grace offered in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, call upon the Lord for mercy and seek the Lord and His mercy through Jesus Christ
- if you are an atheist, see your fatal flaw, that you have allowed your sin to \_\_\_\_\_ you from the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ
- God's handy work is evident in the world, no longer \_\_\_\_\_ God's clear majesty before your eyes and seek Jesus Christ for \_\_\_\_\_!

## 3) Let us Live Holy Lives!

- here in this passage we are given 11 negative examples of \_\_\_\_\_ and sinful actions

- but because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God we are no longer enslaved to sin or our sinful behaviors
- Christ brings \_\_\_\_\_ and we are free indeed!

- 1) instead of corrupt behavior let us live lives of \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord
- 2) instead of abominable deeds let us live lives that \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord
- 3) instead of not doing good let us carry out the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God
- 4) instead of having no understanding of God let us get into the Word of God and get \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord
- 5) instead of not seeking God let us seek the Lord with humility and \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin
- 6) instead of turning aside from the Lord let us turn aside from \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) instead of corrupt living let us live \_\_\_\_\_ living according to the Word of God
- 8) instead of not doing good let us do the \_\_\_\_\_ found in the Word of God
- 9) instead of having no knowledge let us seek the Lord and pursue knowledge of Him in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- 10) instead of biting and devouring each other let us respond in love for one another
- 11) instead of not calling upon the Lord let us call upon the Lord in repentance

- let us do these things not to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves Christian by our own efforts but because the Lord has given us \_\_\_\_\_ to do this work
- let us show our \_\_\_\_\_ by our obedience to God
- let us live lives of faithfulness to God by the \_\_\_\_\_ and aid of the Holy Spirit

