

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 5.5.2024

## PSALM 14 - GOOD NEWS FOR FOOLS LIKE US

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### **Psalm 14:1-7**

To the choirmaster. Of David.

**1** The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is none who does good.

**2** The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,

to see if there are any who understand,[\[a\]](#)  
who seek after God.

**3** They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

there is none who does good,  
not even one.

**4** Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers

who eat up my people as they eat bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?

**5** There they are in great terror,

for God is with the generation of the righteous.

**6** You would shame the plans of the poor,

but the Lord is his refuge.

**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.

## II. GOD REJECTED

- Right at the beginning we are introduced to the fool.
- Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- The fool isn't just someone who is ignorant and does foolish things. The fool is one who disregards and defies the living God.
- The fool is best epitomized by the individual who bears that name in Scripture. 1 Samuel 25 - Nabal.
- The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
- Now this is not a statement about atheists and atheism. Though those who claim to be atheists, however sincere and intellectually reasoned they may be, are making a wrong assumption about reality.
- Scripture makes it clear that no person can really be an atheist.
- Romans 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.
- The fool claims to be wise, but they are fools, living and acting as if God does not matter, that God is of no consequence, and that they will never be accountable to their Creator.
- The fool says this in their heart. It is their inward conviction that defying and disregarding God is a better way for them to live.
- To declare there is no God is a gesture of outright defiance.
- Psalm 10:4 In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
- At the core of their being is a fundamental rejection of God and his ways.
  
- Defying God and rejecting his Word, wisdom, and ways has some devastating consequences.
- v1 "They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good." V3 there is none who does good, not even one."
- This is a categorical statement of the corrupt human nature; human depravity stemming from a heart that lives in defiance of God.
- They ARE corrupt in their being, they DO abominable deeds, they DO no good.
  
- Human depravity, or the doctrine of Total depravity, does not mean that human beings are not capable of doing good. It does not mean that humans are as bad as they can possibly be.
- Because of Adam's fall, all of mankind inherits his sin nature.
- That sin nature is so pervasive that it affects us through and through.
- The whole person has been tainted by sin. We are rotten to the core.
  
- But as we read in Romans 1, this inward defiance that has outward ramifications, is intellectual and moral suicide.
- Our confession states, "the light of nature, the works of creation and providence so clearly demonstrate the goodness, wisdom, and power of God that people are left without excuse."

- They know there is a God, but they do not want to honor him or give thanks to him or worship him.
- Make no mistake, even the self-proclaimed atheist is an idol worshiper.
- When all man does is look to himself as the standard for what is right and wrong, and denies that there is an objective, absolute standard of morality, then anything goes.
- If God in his providence does not restrain the full expression of evil in our world, none would be left.

### III. MAN EVALUATED

- 2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.
- Genesis 6:5, 11-12 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.
- We are all living before the sight of God.
- And the Psalmist depicts the Lord as searching for those with understanding, those who seek after God, who are not fools but wise.
- 2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.
- Psalm 15:1, David asks the question, O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
- He's asking who can enter God's temple and come before the presence of the Lord?
- The rest of Psalm 15 is the answer to that question.
- Who can dwell in the presence of God? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right, who speaks the truth in his heart.
- There is a long list of moral qualifications for someone to be able to come into God's presence and experience what David later describes in Psalm 16 as "fullness of joy and at your right hand are pleasures forevermore(16:11)."
- Blameless, perfect righteousness, that is the standard.
- And the promise at the end of Psalm 15 is, "He does these things shall never be moved. (15:5)"
- He who is righteous, will always get to experience everything God promised.
- We should ask ourselves, "Do we meet the qualifications that will allow us to come near to God and be in his presence?"
- The problem is as we just read, the blameless person does not exist.
- Paul, the apostle of the Lord, quotes from Psalm 14 and a few other OT passages (Pss 5:9; 140:3; 10:7; Isa 59:7-8; Ps 36:1) to demonstrate that all of humanity is "under sin" and therefore, under the wrath of God, deserving of judgment (Rom. 3:5-6).
- Romans 3:9-18 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good, not even one."

13 “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their lips.”

14 “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”

15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known.”

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- We don't like to see ourselves in light of this, but this is God's evaluation of all of mankind.
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).
- All people, at all times, at all places, irrespective of their ethnic lineage, are fallen and sinful.
- All of us have transgressed his law and broken his commandments.
- We have a moral problem that is not just outside of us in the world—it's within us too.
- All of us deserve the price our sin demands—the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

## IV. JUDGMENT DETERMINED

- v5 There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.
- “They,” are the evildoers, God is going to punish those who reject and defy him.
- God is going to punish those who persecute the righteous.
  
- Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”
- Who is the Lamb? It's Jesus!
- This is a depiction of final judgment at the return of Christ.
- They are terrified of the one whom they have rejected, they are terrified because they have disregarded his rule.
  
- The question is, “who can stand?” on that great day of the wrath of the Lamb.
- Not those who have rejected the Lamb!
- There is an appointed day in which the Lamb will judge the world!
- All who have said in their heart, “there is no God,” Who wrongly assumed and lived as if they do not have to give an account to the Creator, will not stand.
- For them, it's too late.
  
- But the good news is that the righteous will stand on that day!
- “God is with the generation of the righteous.” He is their refuge. He is their salvation.
- Romans 3:21-26 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ

for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 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. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

- Through the sinless and perfect righteousness of Christ, he became the perfect unblemished spotless sacrifice for our sins, so that now, through faith in Jesus Christ, all who believe and trust in him, are made righteous through his blood, which satisfies the holy wrath and judgment of God that was upon us.
- Paul writes in Romans 5, but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us and now having been justified by his blood, we are saved by him from the wrath of God (Rom. 5:6-10).
  
- Jesus took complete responsibility for the way we fall short of the glory of God.
- He who knew no corruption, took upon himself our corruption, to remove the punishment that separated sinners like us from God's presence.
- He is our salvation and refuge!
- And the wish-prayer at the end of Psalm 14 is our glorious future hope.
- At the return of our Lord, our present time of distress will come to an end.
- We will enter into everlasting rejoicing.
- "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15)

## **APPLICATION AND REFLECTION**

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?