

CONSEQUENCES AND THE HOPE FOR THE FOOL: PSALM 14

Studies in Psalms #3 Noah Largent 8/26/18



Psalm 14 *For the director of music. Of David.*

¹ The fool says in his heart, “*There is no God.*” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good. ² The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. ³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. ⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord. ⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. ⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge. ⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Psalm 14 begins by telling us that foolish people live as if God doesn’t exist. The verses that follow describe the sad state of the world that results from this faulty perspective. Typically the “fool” in the Bible is anyone who doesn’t take God and His truth into account as they live their lives.

There are more than 80 verses in the Bible on the topic of foolishness. Here are a few:

Prov. 22:15 **Folly** is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Prov. 12:15 The way of a **fool** seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

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Prov. 17:12 Better to meet a bear robbed of her cub than a **fool** in his **folly**.

Prov. 18:2 A **fool** finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.

Prov. 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so a **fool** repeats his folly.

Matt. 7:26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a **foolish** man who built his house on sand.

1 Cor. 3:18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a “**fool**” so that he may become wise.

1 Peter 2:11 & 15 Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents... ¹⁵ For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of **foolish** people.

David closes Psalm 14 with a note of expectation that God will provide a path for salvation and restoration. In time, the means for both salvation and restoration will come through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus!

Notes:
