

## Bible Study Psalm 14     A Mirror of the Soul

For a doctor to be able to provide healing to a patient their diagnosis must be accurate. Psalm 14 though it be very negative provides an accurate diagnosis of the ailment of the human soul. A thorough understanding and acceptance of psalm 14 is the prerequisite to finding salvation in the LORD

### **Read Psalm 14**

1. Psalm 14 was written by Israel's great King David and leader of their Army. Who do you think David could have been thinking about when he penned this very negative Psalm?

Verse 1 introduces the practical atheist, they believe there is a God but deliberately behave as if there isn't, for no one in David's time truly believed there was no God. The Hebrew for fool in this psalm "*nabal*" implies an aggressive perversity which is epitomized in the Nabal of 1 Samuel 25:25.

2. What are the consequences or outcome in verse one for themselves, God and other people for the defiant attitude of the "fool"?

3. The point made in verse 1 is generalised to all people in verses 2 and 3. From verse 2 and 3 what does God see when he surveys humanity from his perspective in heaven?

4. Again, verse 3 states the results of an aggressive, arrogantly defiant and dismissive attitude to God. What are the results for all people from this

attitude in the hearts of all people, and how does it affect the way people relate to each other?

5. Not every person is as stridently rejecting of God as the “fool” of verse 1. But from verses 2 and 3 how wide spread in humanity is the attitude of the “fool”?

6. So, in verses 1 to 3 how would you summarise how the “fool” expresses their ungodliness?

7. How does the “fool” express his rejection of God in verses 4 and 6?

8. In verse 5 who are the foolish evil doers dreading and why do you think they are overwhelmed with dread?

9. In verse 5 why do you think the evildoers attacking God’s people are “overwhelmed with dread” or who are they dreading?

10. What kinds of deficiency of thought in verses 4 and 5 led to the fools' evil actions?

11. In verses 4 to 6 how would you summarise how the "fool" expresses their ungodliness?

12. There is a change of view in verse 7, from whose perspective is verse 7 looking?

13. Where is their hope and trust being directed for salvation from the wicked "fool" in verse 7?

Psalm 14 paints a pretty sad picture of every human being. We are not all as evil as the "fool" in verse 1 who is aggressively perverse in his rejection and defiance of God. But all Adam's descendants have inherited his disposition to sin. The assessment of all humanity in verse 3 is no exaggeration, since every sin implies the offensive attitude of supposedly knowing better than God, and the corruption of loving evil more than good.

14. But where are we to turn? Read Ephesians 2:1-9

15. What benefits are there in acknowledging before God our moral bankruptcy and rebellion against God?

Finish with a time of prayer praising and thanking God for his great salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ