

**Psalms Chapter 14 Commentary**  
*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.*

**Ps 14:1 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.**

"**Fool**" is defined as: stupid; wicked (especially impious), foolish man or woman, vile person, to wilt; to fall away, fail, faint; to be or do foolish or (morally) wicked; to despise, disgrace, dishonour, lightly esteem, fade away, fall (down, off), come to nought, make vile.

"**hath said**" means: to say, answer, appoint, avouch, bid, boast self, call, certify, challenge, charge, commune, consider, declare, demand, desire, determine, expressly, indeed, intend, name, promise, publish, report, require, say, (speak against, of), suppose, talk, tell, think, utter.

"**heart**" means: the heart; also used very widely for; the feelings, the will and even the intellect; likewise for the center of anything: care for, consent, considered, courageous, double hearted, heed, minded, regarded, themselves, unawares, understanding, willingly, wisdom.

"**The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God**". I awoke this morning with this phrase ringing in my mind and heart. This thought jumped out at me: Did you notice that it didn't say; has said out loud or expressed orally? It says definitely that "**The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God**" Somehow, in my mind, I had always applied this scripture to those who go around proclaiming they are atheist, saying '**there is no God**' and trying to convince others that there is no God. This group of persons certainly qualify by the definitions to be fools; however, I want us to look at this in the perspective, as it is actually stated in scripture.

You have already read the definitions of the key words in this scripture, and they all cover a very broad scope. Let's first consider the phrase "**hath said in his heart**" and see what understanding we can come to about it. We see, as we read this text, the expression is not an oral one, as I had previously conceived, but rather, an action connected to the intent of the heart itself. Now, this text takes on a whole new aspect when considered as stated. If the defining of a fool is "**in the heart**", how can we know who to be aware of, and who to keep up a guard against, lest we be drawn away from our own belief that "**there is a God**"? Scripture teaches us some ways to determine this, for example:

- **Mt 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:**
- **Mr 7:20-23; And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

In both references, Jesus is clearly teaching; when we see people doing these things, and any other ungodliness, they are expressing that, in their heart, they are fools. You see, the Jews were judging Christ's disciples by an outward expression (eating without washing their hands) which to the Jews was breaking the law commandments. Jesus answered them saying; eating with unwashed hands does not defile us (is not a sin) before God; but rather, the things listed, and all that they encompass, are the defiling things of man (are sins) before God. We judge a tree by the fruit it bears.

What then does this tell us? Any person not living in the godly way; is saying to God, and to God's people, that I am a fool. How can we say this? We are not saying it; they are saying it by their own actions. We simply look at the fruit and see if it is good or bad.

To further give support of what we are trying to convey let's look at some instances when people were called fools in scripture: **Lu 11:39 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. 40 Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also? 41 But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you. 42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.** Jesus, here and in Matthew 23, tells the Pharisees that they are fools, why? Because the Pharisees were only pretending to live the godly life; they failed to do judgment and exercise the love of God. They were hypocrites. Another warning to us today!

*Lu 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.* We see here a man trusting in the riches of the world. God says of him "**thou fool**". Obviously, the rich man did not have any care, belief, or concern, about God and was consumed with "**the love of money**".

*Lu 24:22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. 25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. 28 And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. 29 But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. 30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.* The ones described here are those who had been following Christ as disciples. Jesus, here, describes as fools those; who do not believe the scriptures, who don't believe that Jesus is the Christ, and those who don't believe that Jesus is resurrected from the dead. Notice, in this scripture text; when Jesus opened their eyes and they saw him for who he really was; they were no longer fools or slow of heart. Another warning for the church today!

*Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.* Do you remember our first two references in **Mt 15:19** and **Mr 7:20-23**? Compare the sins listed there with the ones here, and see that several more added. This tells us that the people described in **Mt 15:19** and **Mr 7:20-23** are fools just as these described here in Romans.

What does all this say to us? It certainly reminds us of the need to walk circumspectly, before the world and God. We understand our walks, as well as our talks, are speaking clearly the intent of our hearts. It reminds us of the need of self-examination, to certify that we are walking in godliness and bearing good fruit (showing forth good works). Understanding this will help us fulfill the scripture in: **Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men,**

***that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*** We understand, because we have the light of Christ in us, we are shedding abroad the glory of God. God's intent, for the light of Christ in us, is that our light shines brightly to his glory, and in so doing, that it spread to others and their light shine to the glory of God.

It tells me that Jesus (God) does the judgments of the eternal consequence of sins. Since God knows the intent of the heart and thoughts, God is able to make true and accurate judgments of whether a person will be in heaven or hell, as seen in: ***Heb 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*** This also reminds us of the Pharisees mentioned earlier. They were putting on a good show on the outside, but God knew what was on the inside, in their hearts. Here also, we have another reminder; we are to be true disciples of Christ, not walking in hypocrisy, but truly living out Christ in us.

One last thought from scripture: ***Pr 24:9 The thought of foolishness is sin:*** What is a thought of foolishness? I used to think thoughts of foolishness were; thoughts of everyday life, telling jokes, acting crazy, pulling pranks, enjoying life in the flesh, and our idle minds filled with thoughts of nothingness. I believe now; the above scriptures clearly indicate to us that at least some foolish thoughts are:

- Thoughts that there is no God,
- Doubts that God exist,
- Not believing in Jesus Christ,
- Not believing the scriptures,
- Not believing in heaven and hell,
- Not believing in eternal life, for the saved in the eternal heaven, and for the lost in the eternal lake of fire,
- Believing we can save ourselves from eternal damnation without God or Christ,
- And all that disbelief in God and Christ entails.

I pray that by now, you can see clearly; we are not only fruit inspectors; we are also fruit producers. We live in a world of humanity infected with foolishness, by its inherit nature and its choice. Only, by the grace of God are we made wise. We pray; God's light of truth may shine in us brightly; so that all may know that we are not fools. May God bless and keep us all, in Jesus Christ, Amen! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, for Salvation by Grace, and Eternal Life in heaven and immortal glory!

## **2 "The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God."**

What does it mean to understand? ***to be circumspect, to be intelligent, to consider, to instruct or teach, make to understand, to have wisdom, to behave self, guide wittingly.*** Simply put: it means to understand that there is a God, who is the supreme being. We are told in ***Pr 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."*** We seek after God, having been given Spiritual understanding in the new birth. We desire to know him in an intimate, communal relationship. We desire to know the word of God, because it teaches us of God and our Saviour. By living a life of discipleship to Christ Jesus: we demonstrate to others that there is a God, and that we are not fools.

## **3 "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."**

Remember the topic is about fools. All the fools have rejected God. The fools join together to practice ungodliness, and live filthy lives. Fools do not do good things. Not one fool has the ability to live for the glory of God, because they are devoid of the Holy Spirit. This is a reminder to us of how great the gift of Salvation by the Grace of God really is.

4 ¶ "Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD."

What is knowledge? Knowledge, as used here means, *to know, to properly ascertain by seeing, to observe, to care, to recognize, to acknowledge, be aware, comprehend, to declare, be diligent*. We return to the topic of the fools, who are workers of iniquity. Why are they workers of iniquity? Because they have no knowledge of God.

**"who eat up my people as they eat bread"** Here is a text that lends light upon this phrase: *Mic 3:1; 1 ¶ "And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment? 2 Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; 3 Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron."* This is a picture of foolish religious leaders, who are teaching untruths. They ridicule and abuse all those who take a faithful stand for the truth of God. They eat God's people as bread, for they feed upon the living to sustain their ungodly appetites.

The fools are workers of iniquity who do not call upon the Lord. They serve themselves and Satan, their father. Some will say: preacher, those are hard words, to which I give you the words of Jesus in *Joh 8:44; 44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."* You should know the King James bible so you can recognize the difference between truth and the deceptive lies of fools.

5 "There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous."

We have several examples of the fools being in great fear before the generation of the righteous. Do you remember Pharaoh and the Egyptians, and their great fear of God and Israel, when God killed all the firstborn of Egypt, both man and breast? Do you remember? how the inhabitants of the land of promise were afraid of the Israelites when they began to enter the land of promise. Do you remember? how the foolish religious leaders feared Jesus when he was on the earth. Do you remember the fear of the foolish leaders of Israel? when the apostles began to preach the gospel, and many turned away from them to Christ.

Why did all these fear? Because they were foolish, and did not believe that there was a Supreme God in heaven, that ruled in heaven and on earth, yet they saw the power of God destroying them and their livelihoods. Therefore, if you do not wish to be classified with the fools, you should do as we are told in: *Php 2:11 "And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

6 "Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge."

The LORD is the refuge of the children of God. They believe that Jesus came into the world and gave His life for the eternal remission of their sins. They believe in the second coming of Jesus. They believe in the resurrection of the dead in Christ to the eternal heaven. They believe the bible is the Word of God.

So how is it that the fools shame the council of the poor? Let's look at the scripture in: *2Pe 3:3-4; 3 ¶ "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."* Fools do not believe in the truths of God, and they mock and castigate the children of God trying to get them to lose faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work of eternal salvation for God's people.

7 "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad."

Captivity means *exile, being prisoners, or returning to a former state of prosperity*. What always happened when Israel forgot God? God would send famine, or pestilence, or drought, or someone to take them captive, to bring them to remembrance of who and what God was to them. They would always lose the richness of God's blessings in their lives. In other words, they became foolish by forgetting God and became captive to fools.

King David understands that the salvation of Israel must come from God. Understand that the Old Testament saints did not have the New Testament. They were looking for the coming of the Messiah. They were looking for an earthly king to sit upon an earthly throne; and bring peace and prosperity to their world. This is

why King David says, "***Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!***" This is a prophetic picture of the first coming of Jesus.

Jesus was sent from God in a prepared body to bring about the freedom of God's people from our former captor the devil. As Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial law, He ushered in the age of salvation by the grace of God. This removed God's people from under the judicial wrath of God and brought them into the state of spiritual prosperity. This outpouring of God's bountiful blessings is upon the church of salvation by grace, which is inhabited by both Jew and Gentile. Though the church of salvation by grace has had her ups and downs through time, yet she continues to grow and prosper under the Holy Spirit guidance. Israel lived with the promise of the coming of the Messiah who would deliver them from all their enemies and rule over them in the fulness of prosperity.

The fools say, "***all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.***" The church, of salvation by grace, lives with the promise of the second coming of Jesus. They believe in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those who are alive and remain at his coming, which eternally free all of God's people from captivity to the satanic evils of this world. The resurrection of the dead in Christ will remove the foolish from the sight of God's people forever. Then, the return of our prosperity will be beyond our wildest imaginations, when we are given sinless, incorruptible, immortal bodies, and Jesus shall carry us to that place he has prepared for us. Hallelujah! Amen!