

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 14:1-7 (NASB)

¹ The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

² The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God.

³ They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

⁴ Do all the workers of wickedness not know, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, *And* do not call upon the Lord?

⁵ There they are in great dread, For God is with the righteous generation.

⁶ You would put to shame the counsel of the afflicted, But the LORD is his refuge.

⁷ Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores His captive people, Jacob will rejoice, Israel will be glad.

Psalm 14: Characteristics of the Godless

David was keenly sensitive to the evil existing at this time. The apostasy was so widespread that all were involved in it except the small remnant (implied in [verse 4](#)). The world seemed ripe for judgment as it was in the days of Noah ([verse 2](#)). Both in this psalm and in [Psalm 12](#), the wicked oppressed and destroyed the righteous. In both psalms corruption was rampant before the eyes of David. The heart of the psalm is the contrast between a corrupt world and a righteous judge. It was a dramatic scene of tragedy to David. Sin was acting in madness against God, and God looked down upon men as He once did at the building of the tower of Babel. He saw utter apostasy ([verse 3](#)).

Some say that man is inherently good. But what is the standard for "goodness?" If a holy God is the standard, is there really any person who is "good"? [Verses 1-3](#) from God's Word give God's verdict on men without God: **no one is good**. This is a vital point in presenting the good news of Jesus Christ to unbelievers. If man sets his own standard, there are always some better or worse than others. But if the standard is the perfection of a holy God, then all fail. That is why Jesus' death is good news. He was sinless and gave his sinlessness to all who accept it. All of man's attempts at righteousness are filthy rags before God. In Jesus we are given garments of holiness in exchange and can stand faultless before the throne. That is good news!

God spoke from heaven ([verse 4](#)). The wicked were confounded at the word of His mouth ([verse 5](#)). There is nothing in the psalm to associate it with any particular circumstance in David's life. Filled with a holy jealousy for God, the righteous in every age are concerned about apostasy as they encounter wicked practices and a disregard for

Bible Study: THE DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Prayer Series: Survey of the Doctrines of Prayer

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

02-05-16

God and His Word. If it were not for God's promises of the future, the righteous would lose hope. History shows how all that is desirable and honorable lies in the path of obedience; paths of wickedness are paths of misery and shame.