

Psalm 14 (NKJV)
1 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.

4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the Lord? 5 There they are in great fear, For God is with the generation of the righteous.
6 You shame the counsel of the poor, But the Lord is his refuge.

7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Introduction

No one is a true atheist. No one.

Illustration: The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion (2013) by Lindeman, et al. Conclusion: atheists said they did not believe in God, but actually (emotionally) they did. In reality atheists are living in constant fear of God.

That is the Biblical definition of a fool: faithless.

1 John 4:18, *There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. The one who fears has not been perfected in love. More on that in a moment.*

Atheism Rots the Heart (v.1)

Foolishness: a person has no dignity, respect, or honor. Dignity, respect, and honor are

Anthropological evidence that societies who were God-fearing, were societies that outlived and thrived more than those who did not.

The Bible is clear: this is a heart problem. Hating and denying God twists the heart.

Question: What is the connection between God's existence and the heart?

The classic four arguments for God's existence:

1. **Cosmological argument** - **Job, 38:4** *"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding."*
2. **Teleological argument** - **Job**, **38:33 (NLT)**, *"Do you know the laws of the universe? Can you use them to regulate the earth?"*
3. **Ontological argument** - **Matthew 5:48 (NIV)**, *Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*
4. **Moral argument** - **1 John 4:8**, the Bible teaches us, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

Psalm 14 is emphasizing this connection between believing in God and love.

The problem with the heart is that it doesn't want to obey

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

Illustration: Atheism - More Widespread Than you Think
Epidemic: the disease is spreading in a local area, not crossing major boundaries.
Pandemic: global.
Endemic: global and under control.

Man's Health Status (vv.2-6)
The problem with the heart of man is with *all* people.

Even King David was a practical atheist.

Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned (unrighteous) and fallen short the glory of God*,

Unrighteousness caused by a lack of faith in God, is remedied by faith in Jesus Christ.
Faith in Jesus and is how one becomes one of God's people under the headship of Abraham.

God is shocked that atheists, as they take from their brother instead of asking God.

This is the story of Cain: he was exiled from God's presence who is in heaven and earth.

CS Lewis: *"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"*

Question: Would you ever say that *you* are guilty of being faithless in God? Yes, you my fellow believer in Christ, are you ever faithless? Are you ever a practical atheist?

Back To The "ISR"

Jeremiah 17:9 (paraphrase): The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick - incurable; who can figure it out?

In Christ, have been justified, you in the process of *being sanctified*—you are not yet glorified. No one has made it to the promise land, to the dwelling place of God.

When you have faith in Jesus Christ, you have the promise to enter the true Promised Land: **Galatians 6:6-7, 9, 14** *Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham… that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Galatians 3:3 *Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

Question: How can you enter the true Promised Land? *Jesus*

John 14:3 *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*

Important Point: *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.* **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Are We There Yet? (v.7)
Sanctification is a process of the transformation from the old to the new.

Paul commands us, as believers for more after conversion, to be further transformed into the image of Christ, in ever-increasing glory by the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Day after day, we fail, lack faith, lose hope, trust ourselves, fall into pits of satan. We are so weak in our mortal flesh. We are all Hebrews 6 babies at first.

Who can deliver us from our flesh that is dragging us down?
Deliverance is found in Christ Jesus the Lord!
So call upon Him!

So call upon the name of Jesus: every hardship, doubt, and struggle—call upon Jesus. When you are not sure what to do, call upon Him—when you are in need—call upon Him!

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