

Connect Together

During the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe, the Enlightenment movement sought to better humanity through reason and one's own intellectual powers, often challenging established truths in quest of happiness and freedom. Why do you think such movements fail to bring true happiness and freedom?

Lesson Verses - Psalm 14 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

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.

Study & Apply

1. David describes the corruption of all mankind (v1-3), as God sees it.

a. Which characteristics of fallen man are highlighted in these verses? What examples have you seen of these traits?

b. Because no man or woman, child or adult is untainted by this corruption, how does this affect our interactions with others? (1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20; James 4:1-2) How does it affect our/their relationship with God? (Romans 3:23; 8:7; Matthew 23:33)

APPLY: How can we avoid becoming "practical atheists" (one who claims to believe in God but behaves as if "there is no God")?

2. David explains the hostile relationship between the ungodly and the godly in vv. 4-6.

a. The ungodly exploit God's people as if there were no consequences, as if God would not avenge (v4). But what are they sometimes confronted with that restrains them from doing evil? (v5; Exodus 15:15-16; 1 Samuel 18:12; Luke 23:39-41)

b. What should those who ridicule the advice of the godly poor be aware of? (v6; Psalm 37:40; 146:9; Proverbs 28:25)

APPLY: How do you respond when people attack your trust in the Lord in times of trouble? What "defense" is hinted at in this psalm that you can apply in the face of doubt and unbelief?

3. In the face of attacks from the ungodly, the hope and strong desire of David and of all God's people past, present and future is that "the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion." (v7; Joel 2:32; Romans 11:26-27)

a. Why is this the only solid hope for us in this sinful world, in any age? (John 15:18-19; 16:33)

APPLY: How can the truths taught in this psalm be used in leading sinners to Christ?

Discuss & Share

Even when David was king over Israel, he knew that there was only so much he could do to restrain the wicked and protect the oppressed. In the end, he knew that only Messiah/Christ can set things right. How does this Psalm instruct us concerning how we should deal with the evil that is in the world today? What message of hope can we bring to the oppressed?

Grow & Minister

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.
Pray for our TBC VBS preparation, the leaders and teams!