

Psalm 14

“Morally Deficient, Yet Victorious”

If King David knew nothing else, he understood firsthand what it meant to be morally deficient. Despite his profound devotion to God, he failed miserably morally. I believe through his personal struggles and divine wisdom; David came to recognize the universal moral deficiency inherent in every human. I am convinced it was this intimate understanding that likely inspired him to pen this psalm, declaring that no one possess moral perfection and seeks God. In his declaration of humanity's moral lapse, he includes himself: 'All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.' Hard words to hear but words to be taken very seriously from a man that God called “a man after his own heart” (1 Sam 13:14, Acts 13:22). With these words in mind, I wish to explore three truths illuminated by this psalm of David.

Truth number one: all of us have lived as if God does not exist.

V1 'The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."' Notice that the writer emphasizes the heart, the place hidden from the senses of others but open to God. It is possible to appear outwardly devout, only to have our hearts betray us—not to others, but to God, to Christ Jesus, who know our hearts, who knows those things we say only to ourselves? Even if we've never verbally denied God's existence, do our hearts sometimes reveal a practical atheism? Perhaps we haven't been foolish enough to say it outright but have our actions or our decisions communicated as much. All of us have lived as if God does not exist. Everybody plays the fool sometimes. Let us pray that none

of us continue to do so, so that we are not counted among the foolish. Let each of us faithfully examine our own heart.

Proverbs 18:2 “Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.”

Proverbs 4:23 “²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

Matt 15:16-20a “¹⁶ “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person.”

Truth number two: no one can hide from God. V2-3

“The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. ³ All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.” We are all masters of disguise. We cover ourselves in the finest veneers. It is understandable there are some things we want no one to know about us and rightfully so.

But no matter how elaborate the disguise, no matter how exquisite the veneer, no matter how big and dark the closet we put that thing into, we cannot hide from God. In his presence every man/woman is stripped bare. Our only recourse is to turn it all over to him, to seek refuge with God through faith in His Son, Christ Jesus, not with fig leaves. No one can hide from God. Indeed, His eye is on the sparrow.

Gen 3:7-11 “⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together

and made coverings for themselves. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." ¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."

Heb 4:13-14 "¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess."

Truth number three, through Christ Jesus we have the victory.

V4-7 "⁴ Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord. ⁵ But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous. ⁶ You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge. ⁷ Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!" The psalmist laments the actions of evildoers, yet he finds solace in God's presence among his people. Are there concerns or fears weighing on your mind today? Consider the promises laid out in these verses. 'For God is present in the company of the righteous' and 'the Lord is their refuge.' **Through faith in God's Son, isn't it true that God Himself is present with us and has**

become our refuge? Hasn't Jesus won the victory? It may look like the enemy is winning, but as the psalmist writes the enemy's defeat is sure. Does not matter who or what that enemy may be.

Through Christ Jesus we have the victory! Therefore, don't become discouraged but be encouraged.

Rom 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

1 Cor 15:57-58 "⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Church, through faith Jesus the Christ we are no longer counted among the foolish. We are no longer counted among the evildoers. Through faith in God's Son, we have the victory. Victory over every enemy, regardless of who or what that enemy maybe. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.