

December 9, 2009

Psalm 14 (ESV)

**The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds,
There is none who does good.
The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,
To see if there are any who understand,
Who seek after God.
They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
There is none who does good, not even one.
Have they no knowledge,
All the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread
And do not call upon the LORD?
There they are in great terror,
For God is with the generation of the righteous.
You would shame the plans of the poor,
But the LORD is his refuge.
Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.**

Maybe I am a fool at times, but I'm not so foolish to deny the existence of God! There is a God. There is a God. There is a God. It's actually quite easy to say. For me, it's even quite easy to believe. But notice that the psalmist isn't simply talking about the foolishness of those who outwardly deny the existence of God. It is possible—and far too often the reality—that we can acknowledge God's existence and still live as if He is only a fairy tale.

What do our hearts say about our belief in God?

Are we emotionally and cognitively committed to God? In large part, this question can be answered by looking at the way we live. The psalmist says that God looks around trying to find someone who understands what it means to believe enough to seek Him. If we truly believe in God, then we will seek Him. If we seek Him, we will find Him and live in ways contrary to the deceitfulness of the world. We will not be without knowledge, because we will learn from God according to His revealed Word. We will not be a people who fail to do good to one another, because we will have learned that God has always been compassionate and self-sacrificing when meeting the needs of people—even people like us who are sinful, flawed, and undeserving. We will not be abusers and oppressors and people who are so self-centered that we neglect to call upon the Lord in humility. We will not turn away the poor and deprive them of hope.

Instead, we will proclaim with our very lives that there is a God who brings hope and justice and salvation! The hope of the psalmist has become reality; salvation has come from Zion! Christ's work has inaugurated the reign of God in our lives and in the world in ways that foreshadow the full victory of God that looms just beyond the horizon. Let us all rejoice! Let us all be glad! Christ is coming again, and the Lord will be a refuge for all who have given themselves to the living God.

Till He comes,
Patrick Barber