

Evening Sermon Outline – February 16, 2020

“The Fool’s Atheistic Heart” Psalm 53

I. The fool’s heart declaration –

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 53:1 (NKJV)

Verse 1.—“The fool hath said in his heart,” etc. It is in his heart he says this; this is the secret desire of every unconverted bosom. If the breast of God were within reach of men, it would be stabbed a million of times in one moment.—Robert Murray M’Cheyne, 1813–1843.

II. The fool’s heart condition -

They are corrupt Psalm 53:1 B (NKJV)

Corruption in the heart infects every part of us, and leads only to Hell, extreme repentance is required -

⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—

⁴⁶ where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’

⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—⁴⁸ where ‘Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.’ Mark 9:43–48 (NKJV)

III. The fool’s heart actions -

.... and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good. Psalm 53:1 (NKJV)

Heart sinfulness spreads to sinful actions –

¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)

None does good! Not just sins of commission, but sins of omission!

IV. God’s view and evaluation of men and their hearts –
² God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. Psalm 53:2 (NKJV)

1. Man’s corrupt nature / heart turns them off the path of God –
³ Every one of them has turned aside; Psalm 53:3 (NKJV)

A. From the path of God is His Word –
¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

B. From Christ Himself is the Way –
⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

C. We don’t naturally go in this way that leads to life –
¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and **broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.** ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

*Across the will of Nature Leads on the path of God;
Not where the flesh delighteth The feet of Jesus trod.*
~ by Gerhard Tersteegen

2. They have a corrupt, rotten (filthy) fellowship -
They have together become corrupt; Psalm 53:3 B (NKJV)

Verse 3.—“They are altogether become filthy.” נִלְאָחוּ neelachu. They are become sour and rancid; a metaphor taken from milk that has fermented and turned sour, rancid and worthless.—Adam Clarke, 1760–1832.

3. They are all bad! We are all bad
There is none who does good, No, not one. Psalm 53:3 B (NKJV)

Arnold Brevick

A. *Paul applies this to us all, apart from Christ, apart from the New Birth –*

¹⁰ **As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. Romans 3:10-11 (NKJV)**

B. *This agrees with what Jesus says about man’s heart –*

¹⁹ **For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:19 (NKJV)**

C. *Proper knowledge of these things should humble us all-*

D. *Even as redeemed believers we still have to deal with a sin nature –*

¹⁷ **For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. See also Galatians 5:16–26 (NKJV)**

V. *Ungodly = no knowledge, eat people, no prayer, stupid fear –*

⁴ **Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call upon God? Psalm 53:4 (NKJV)**

1. *Atheism, evolution, not intelligence ...*

2. *Like beasts, man-eaters*

3. *They don’t PRAY*

4. *They fear what no one would –*

⁵ **There they are in great fear Where no fear was, For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you; You have put them to shame, Because God has despised them. Psalm 53:5 (NKJV)**

A. *One example: Global warming, the sky is falling!*

B. *The true fear of the LORD is a great positive –*

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10 (NKJV)**

VI. *The desire of the godly is for God, His judgment -*

⁶ **Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad. Psalm 53:6 (NKJV)**

God, by the Psalmist, here shows—

I. The fact of sin. God is a witness to it. He looks down from heaven and sees all the sinfulness of men’s hearts and lives. All this is open and naked before him.

II. The fault of sin. It is iniquity (verses 1, 4); it is an unrighteous thing; it is that in which there is no good (verses 1, 3); it is going back from God (verse 3).

III. The fountain of sin. How comes it that men are so bad? Surely, it is because there is no fear of God before their eyes; they say in their hearts, *there is no God* at all to call us to account, none that we need to stand in awe of. Men’s bad practices flow from their bad principles.

IV. The folly of sin. He is a *fool* (in the account of God, whose judgment we are sure is right) who harbors such corrupt thoughts. The “workers of iniquity,” whatever they pretend to, “have no knowledge;” they may truly be said to know nothing that do not know God. Verse 4.

V. The filthiness of sin. Sinners are “corrupt” (verse 1); their nature is vitiated and spoiled; their iniquity is “abominable;” it is odious to the holy God, and renders them so; whereas, otherwise he “hates nothing that he has made.” What neatness soever proud sinners pretend to, it is certain that wickedness is the greatest nastiness in the world.

VI. The fruit of sin. See to what a degree of barbarity it brings men at last! See their cruelty to their brethren! They “eat them up as they eat bread.” As if they had not only become beasts, but beasts of prey. See their contempt of God at the same time—they have not called upon him, but scorn to be beholden to him.

VII. The fear and shame that attends sin (verse 5). “There were they in great fear” who had made God their enemy; their own guilty consciences frightened them and filled them with horror. This enables the virgin, the daughter of Zion, to put them to shame and expose them, “because God hath despised them.”

VIII. The faith of the saints, and their hope and power touching this great evil (verse 6). There will come a Savior, a great salvation, a salvation from sin. O that it might be hastened! for it will bring in glorious and joyful times. There were those in the Old Testament times that looked and hoped, that prayed and waited for this redemption. Such salvations were often wrought, and all typical of the everlasting triumphs of the glorious church.—*Condensed from Matthew Henry, 1662–1714.*

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