

ATHEISTS: ALL UNGODLY

Much has been said about atheists. Since they are a growing percentage of our population, they seem to be getting more and more press. I want to address one of the false impressions they try to pull over on the unwary. They would like for the simple to believe one can be a good person and be an atheist. This is a false statement. I plan to back up this fact with some examples, but the heart of this overview will follow Psalm 14.

Before we read this psalm, just a mention that Psalm 53 is almost a match to this psalm. They were clearly built upon the same frame. My guess would be that Psalm 53 was a remodel of Psalm 14. They are found in different books of the Psalms and the differences prove an interesting comparison. For today though, we will be going through Psalm 14:

Grounds of the foolish

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. 3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD. 5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. 6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. 7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Psalm 14

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

This first verse lays out the basic characteristics of the atheist. The scripture does not use the word atheist. The beginning of this verse lays the descriptive element that it is the atheist being addressed – *The person who truly believes in his heart there is no God*. Biblically, this person is simply addressed as the “fool”.

The word for “fool” in the Hebrew shows further meaning behind this term. We hear the word “fool” and think of an idiot or stupid person. The Hebrew word, “nabal”, translated “fool” in this psalm, has a root indicating “to become withered, faded, like the leaves that fall from the trees”. It means to fall down, to faint, to lose one’s strength. It is the root for the word “corpse”. In the direction of folly, it indicates impiety and instability or weakness.

Seeing these descriptive words for the fool, we can see why the atheist is summarized with the following characteristics:

- Corrupt
- Done abominable works
- None does good

The atheist is one who follows the weakness of his own heart. In that defiled heart, there is left no good thing to bring forth virtue.

A primary detail of the atheists is they have no fear of the God whom they sincerely believe doesn’t exist. They are simply the product of evolution. Survival of the fittest has no moral compass nor fear of ultimate punishment. What else could issue from such a foundation than corruption, abominable works, lack of any good?

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

This verse takes an interesting turn. It jumps from the atheist to all men, but that “all” is to be tempered in verse four. Before we get there though, consider the “looked down” portion. I like the Hebrew word used for that.

It indicates a distinctly advantageous point of view. Kind of like being in a balcony where you can stretch out your neck to get a glimpse of the crowd that just can’t be seen if you are in the crowd itself. Some people may think that Yahweh is far away in heaven, so doesn’t see all that is on earth. The opposite is the truth. Consider the type of views gained by something like Google earth. Those satellite views reveal things that man hasn’t even seen until now. When Yahweh looks down from heaven, He can zoom in on the target much more closely than any satellite imagery. He can hear the voice and see the heart.

Yahweh is in constant surveillance mode and is examining each and every man, woman and child. He is looking to see if any has some sense of understanding. Our achievements in technology do not demonstrate true understanding. Yes, we understand some of the principles that make some things work a certain way, but we seem to miss the true God who is behind all such laws of His creation. As this verse indicates, true understanding will result in seeking God.

3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

From the advantaged view of Yahweh, we get the tally of His investigation. In not seeking God, mankind becomes morally repugnant, down to the last one. You might respond with surprise and say, “Surely, there is at least one to be found in all that multitude!” The psalmist David foresaw that skepticism and seemed to respond to it by doubling the emphasis of the findings with, “no, not one”.

4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

We start verse four with a further detail of the characteristic of the mass of humanity. Those who have gone aside from seeking Yahweh ARE, “*workers of iniquity*”. From what we have seen so far, can one hold to Scripture and say some atheists are good? That option has been ruled out.

Here is the interesting twist to this psalm. We are introduced to a “*people*” who are clearly distinct from the foolish atheists. (Note: I am not violating the words of Jesus to not call anyone a fool. I am quoting what the scripture is clearly saying. I am speaking in paraphrase of this very psalm.) We have been reading there was not one good to be found, then we read of those who do follow Yahweh. What gives? We’ll take a closer look at this later.

We see these workers of iniquity demonstrate, “*no knowledge*” in their persecution of Yahweh’s people. Such demonstration flows from their “*ignorance*” that they will pay a price for their transgressions. They take advantage of those “*weaker*” than themselves for personal gain. Remember the evolutionary principal of “*survival of the fittest*”? Their lack of knowledge is held in their conviction that they actually have great knowledge.

5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

These wicked atheists live their life suffering the consequences of their transgressions. When they lift up their hands to harm Yahweh’s people, they will know great fear. Why? Because God is with His people and will turn the world upside down upon themselves.

Look at the turmoil of the Arab world today. The scripture shows two groups distinguished as God’s people. Israel being one and all those who turn to the Messiah for mercy in Christ Jesus. Not saying that all the natural nation of Israel are “*God’s people*”, but Satan does have an eye out to destroy the precious descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But look now at those Arabs who demonize Israel. They cry in outrage to destroy Israel. Though there are exceptions of hatemongers amongst them, there is a great wave of murderous rage among the Arabs. They are filled with great bitterness and such sad lives. Look at the terrors in those Arab countries. On just an accusation, people

are so easily killed.

One example: A visitor to Arabia of an Australian Muslim was accused of speaking evil of one of Muhammad’s friends to the religious police in Arabia. Whether such evil speaking was said is not openly proved. This man was sentenced to two years in prison and 500 lashes with the whip. He was an older man suffering from diabetes, but even a young man couldn’t survive that many lashes. The Australian government sent help to try and get a leniency in the sentence. They generously agreed to lower the sentence to 500 lashes, but only one year in prison. After international outrage, they lowered the sentence to 75 lashes and let him return to Australia. Can you image the terror the people who live in such a country must live under?

6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

This verse lifts up that typical type of persecution the atheist will volley at those weaker than him/herself. This comes from that “*survival of the fittest*” mentality. It is the fear of Yahweh that holds men’s covetousness in check to some degree. Though not all poor are followers of Yahweh, it is definitely much more common that the poor do follow Him. It is among those poor that the wicked perceives easy prey. They see those of faith as despicable and, “*shamed the counsel*” given by such.

When such a character is found among politicians, these look to their financial backers, making sure they scratch their backs. The poor is clearly not a promising supply for climbing the ladder of power and fame. When some special interest group, who helped finance a corrupt politician’s campaign, want their backs scratched, such a politician will endeavor to pass their desired law. These kinds of laws force people to funnel what little they have to the industries who are pulling the strings. Such practices are almost the “*law of the land*” today, they are so common.

Consider that these poor are also the beloved faithful of Yahweh. They are precious in His sight. Remember Lazarus who was full of sores at the gate of the rich man’s house? Jesus told us Lazarus was one of God’s children, while the rich man went to the place of eternal torment (it wasn’t a parable folks). Lazarus was not some wicked

sinner evidenced by his poverty and suffering. He was the blessed one in God’s sight. He was the one Jesus showed was clearly right with God. Don’t ever think that someone’s success and riches are evidence they are right with God. The account of Lazarus should teach us better.

7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

After listing the political mechanism of oppression that is such an oppressive weight on the poor, can’t we see the deep groaning that is expressed in verse seven? Such oppression on the poor who fear God is a “*captivity*”. It is a form of slavery, but what can they do but make Yahweh their refuge? Indeed, He is not a vain refuge, as the atheist would have us believe.

‘Unholy Water’ of the Atheists

I mentioned I wanted to give some examples of the sick condition that exists amongst the atheists.

An article entitled, “*Florida church responds to ‘unblessing’ of highway, says atheist group is desperate for attention*” dated March 19, 2012 tells of a group of atheists who used, what they called, “*unholy water*” to wash away a religious group’s blessing on the entry to Polk County.

There were articles about this incident that showed the tank of water with the “*unholy water*” sign on it. They told of the atheist member of “*such and such*” group and members of other atheist groups that gathered for this washing. Apparently, some reporters don’t seem too concerned about honesty. Only two men showed up. No matter how you count it, two are not going to fulfill the impression, less than ethical reporters hoist upon their readers. The article I want to quote from did not do that. The closing statement of the article put the point very well:

“*Having no positive statement to make, it (Humanists of Florida) wants to obliterate speech it disagrees with,*” Donohue wrote in a statement to FoxNews.com. “*While the atheists are*

within their legal rights to attack the Christian message, it shows once again their proclivity to intolerance. Bullying is what defines them.”

Atheist who cries for a just society

In my local newspaper, there is an atheist, for he has clearly declared himself as such, who writes letters to the editor on a weekly basis. He has run for Governor of Wyoming, but fortunately that never goes anywhere. I have seen his letters crying for justice for the poor, etc. etc., ... what he would do if he got in office. He loves to slander any religious people while claiming to believe everyone has the right to practice their religion in private. I have one of his letters I decided to keep from 2011. He goes into great detail about his tour of duty on the East German border in 1953 and 54. He felt the job he was assigned was nothing to take serious. I will quote the final paragraph of his letter:

“Southern Germany gets cold in winter riding in open jeeps. During day patrols we stole chickens from farms and dropped them off at a German family near the border. On night patrols the five gallon can of gas on back of a jeep we traded for a case of German beer and while one soldier at a time stayed on the radio to report we were on patrol we had fried chicken and beer and some of the nearby village girls were always there to party with us.”

Isn't it interesting that such an atheist, who cries for justice and right,

unashamedly decrees his dereliction of duty. Such soldiers are touted as heroes for our country who risked their lives for our freedom. Oh that we knew some of those other details, such as this atheist wrote in his letter to the editor. He was taking the gas, our tax dollars purchased, to trade for party supplies and “village girls” while simultaneously skipping that patrol duty that such faithfulness would have ended in consuming the gas.

Remember, Yahweh has the distinct view advantage heaven affords. He sees such criminal behavior and will not let it go as “boys will be boys”.

New Testament textual difficulty

If you look back at verses two through four, you may notice a difficulty. If “not one is good”, of all humanity, how are there any to be put in a different class as being “Yahweh’s people”? The Apostle Paul quotes from this psalm in Romans:

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:10-12

Paul is using this quote to point out that all men are under God’s condemnation as sinners. If his usage is accurate, how do we find the “people of Yahweh” who are not part of that group? Also, not all humanity are atheists, many follow many

different gods. Does this psalm hit all people, atheists and pagans?

There may be other solutions to the dilemma that is created here, but I will list what I believe to be a solution:

The position of saying, “there is no God”, is the ultimate result of rejecting the true God, Yahweh. There are those who openly state that position who are the atheists. There are those who choose a deity of choice who are likewise taking the position of no responsibility to the one and only true Creator and Lord of all, Yahweh.

Who are Yahweh’s people, since none sought after Him? I see the answer to this being that though none sought after Him, He did seek after them. Hence, all mankind are corrupted by nature. Those who are otherwise are those whom God calls and transforms to be His children of faith. It is this position that trumpets out the call of Grace that Paul was working to present in the epistle of the Romans.

Atheism is on the increase. England has become overrun with atheists of late. I must warn you, don’t fool with atheism. Don’t trust your mind in battling with it. There is a spirit of darkness that is behind it. Such spirits do have spiritual powers we are not humanly equipped to overcome. You may be hanging around with some atheist or giving ear to their teachings, evolution being one of them. Take heed, lest ye fall. Embrace God’s holy Word and flee the teachings of atheism. Like any other path of darkness, it has a spiritual power working behind it to destroy your soul. God’s Word also has a power that will keep you on the paths of life. Embrace God’s Word and don’t give atheists your ear.



Free to copy under CC-BY-NC-ND3.0 Copyright 2012 by Darrell Farkas

The English version used is that from the King James Bible.

To find this article on-line go to www.basedintheword.org entitled “ATHEISTS: ALL UNGODLY”