

# Seven Fools

**Introduction.** The Bible says a lot about fools (Proverbs 10:10, 14, 18, 23; 12:15-16, 23; 13:16; 14:3; 15:5). A fool is “one who is regarded as deficient in judgment, sense, or understanding.” In Matthew 5:21-22, Jesus uses the word to describe someone who refers to another with contempt. We are not going to use the term in a contemptible way; we are referring to someone who does not use common sense, who does not make judgments according to truth.

Everyone is a fool of one kind or another. No one likes being called a fool, but when you are called one by man, it is his opinion or judgment. When you are called one by God, you had better take notice.

## I. ***The Atheistic Fool (Psalm 14:1)***

- A. An atheist believes that positive evidence exists to prove that there is no God. To the atheist, all religious belief, evidence, and faith are false (Psalm 14:1). An atheist must work through several contrasts.
  - 1. God (Genesis 1:1) vs. No God.
  - 2. Creator (Hebrews 3:4) vs. No Creator.
  - 3. Six days (Exodus 20:11) vs. Billions of years.
  - 4. Bible (Colossians 2:1-8) vs. Philosophy of men.
  - 5. Savior (1 Timothy 4:10) vs. Self.
- B. People who do not believe in God resort to four major arguments.
  - 1. Talk about God is meaningless. Since it cannot be proven that He exists, why consider the issue?
  - 2. God would not allow evil. If an all-powerful, all-good God existed, then He would have destroyed evil. Evil exists; therefore, an all-powerful, all-good God must not exist. If He does exist, then He must not be able to destroy evil.
  - 3. God is man’s product. Man feels inadequate in himself. He wishes for someone who is big enough to rescue him from tragedies. He wants God to exist; therefore, God arises from man’s mind but has no objective reality.
  - 4. God’s all-powerfulness and attributes contradict each other. Can God make  $2+2=5$ ? Can He make a square circle? How can one Being possess both love and wrath? How can God give man free will but be all-knowing? An all-powerful God cannot exist.
- C. You can see the foolishness that goes into a belief that God does not exist. All of these objections can be very simply answered. If they can be refuted, then an honest observer is left with the conclusion that there is a God.

## II. ***The Shameless Fool (Proverbs 14:9)***

- A. God hates sin. It is an abomination to Him. Christ shed His blood for the remission of sins, yet fools make a mockery of it (Proverbs 14:9). In Philippians 3:19, Paul describes the enemies of the cross of Christ as those who "glory in their shame."
- B. Have you ever seen the liar who is so happy because they have tricked everybody? Have you ever see the drunkard or fornicator who brags about what they have done? They glory in their shame!
- C. The Lord punishes, not out of spite, but out of righteousness. Righteousness, at its base level, demands justice (Zephaniah 3:5). God will have the last laugh with those who mock at sin (Jeremiah 6:15; Galatians 6:7).

## III. ***The Thoughtless Fool (Proverbs 24:7)***

- A. Have you ever tried to talk to someone who says, "I never think about the gospel"? They never think about their spiritual condition (Proverbs 24:7). The gate was a common place for the wise men to meet. The verse portrays a fool out of his element: in a serious moment in the gathering of the city, he does not even open his mouth. Wisdom is beyond the ability of the fool.
- B. This kind of fool believes that they are acceptable; they have closed the case before you ever get the book open (Matthew 13:15). Contrary to their belief, following God takes much thought and true dedication (Luke 10:27; 14:33).

## IV. ***The Arrogant Fool (Proverbs 28:26)***

- A. Have you ever heard someone say, "I don't need God. There is nothing wrong with me"? Arrogance and salvation do not go hand-in-hand (Proverbs 28:26; cf. Isaiah 57:15).
- B. When Peter claimed that he would never forsake Christ, the Lord foretold the famous three denials which would occur shortly thereafter (Matthew 26:33). Paul knew he could be rejected as a Christian (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 10:12).
- C. The arrogant fool knows that there is a God, but does not glorify Him as God (Romans 1:21-25). The remarkable part is that people who act this way profess to be wise and never realize they are foolish. They think they have everything figured out, but the Bible condemns them (Obadiah 3-4; Revelation 18:7-8).

## V. ***The Industrious Fool (Luke 12:20)***

- A. This person is not a skeptic; they do not make a mockery of sin. They are a thoughtful, active, conscientious businessperson. They sound

perfect, right? The tragedy of this person is that worldly affairs are all that concern him (Luke 12:16-21).

- B. This was not an immoral man! He did well for himself, and people around him probably praised him, but he was a fool to God for four reasons.
  - 1. He left God out of all his future plans (Psalm 10:4).
  - 2. He was selfish (Galatians 6:10; 1 John 3:16-18).
  - 3. He thought he could be satisfied with materialism (Ecclesiastes 2:4-11).
  - 4. He thought he had time because of his riches (James 4:13-15).
- C. God does not weigh people according to how late one stays at work or the profit generated; God weighs us according to the way we follow Him. He wants us to concentrate on treasure in heaven and point our cares toward Him (Matthew 6:20, 33-34).
- D. To not obey God when you easily could have is nothing but foolishness.
  - 1. Everyday that goes by is another risk or chance which could have dire consequences. The tragedy is that the payoff will be more than you were ever willing to spend.
  - 2. How will the industrious fool fare with his trade-off? Will you find that the trade-off was not worth it (Luke 9:25)?

## VI. ***The Rationalistic Fool (1 Corinthians 15:36)***

- A. Paul deals with two objections (1 Corinthians 15:36).
  - 1. The first has to do with the Corinthians failing to consider the possibility that God would raise the dead. What if a man were eaten by a wild beast? What if a man were consumed by maggots? What if a man were burned at the stake?
  - 2. The second refers to the kind of body which the resurrected will have. Apparently, they believed it would be a physical body, which would have been very unappealing after decomposition.
- B. The Corinthians were considered fools because they denied the possibility of the very event happening to them that they witnessed every day in nature.
- C. Some doubt the resurrection and deny all miracles, because they do not know the scriptures nor the power of God (Mark 12:24).
  - 1. Socrates firmly believed that, before anyone can understand the world, they first must understand themselves with rational thought. During the 17th century the successes of science, especially the work of Sir Isaac Newton, persuaded people of the power of reason and of the necessity to test everything by reason.
  - 2. Rationalism eventually crossed over to "theology," and rationalist "theologians" were critical of miracles in the New Testament,

suspecting everything that did not fit their naturalistic view of the universe. The rise of rationalism in the 18th century led to a drastic modification of the inerrant status of the Bible.

- a) The Bible was assumed to be a collection of religious sentiments composed by human authors without the virtue of inspiration. If there was any such power as a "Supreme Being," He was either an impersonal "Force" that pervaded the created universe, or else He was so far removed from man as to be unknowable.
  - b) At best, scripture could only offer unverifiable testimony that pointed toward the living God, a reality that could never be adequately formulated as truth.
- D. However, the weakness of man's reason to grasp the deep truths of God does not invalidate the word of God (cf. Romans 11:33).

### **VII. *The Christian Fool (1 Corinthians 4:10)***

- A. The apostle Paul called himself a fool for Christ's sake (1 Corinthians 4:10). Paul gave up a lot to be an apostle -- the worldly-minded would have surely thought him to be a fool. But it is infinitely better to be a fool in the sight of men and be wise in the sight of God (1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5; 3:18-19).
- B. We may seem ridiculous in the sight of men (why we attend services or why we do not cheat on our wives), but we are sensible to God because we have considered our spiritual condition and "worked out our own salvation" (Philippians 2:15).
- C. When Paul preached the gospel, the philosophers at Athens called him a "babbling" (Acts 17:18), and Festus called him "mad" (Acts 26:24). The natural man does not receive God's amazing truths because they are foolishness to him. Think of all the wonderful narratives in the Bible designed to build our faith and help us trust in God!
  - 1. The walls of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-5).
  - 2. The bronze serpent (Numbers 21:4-9).
  - 3. Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-3, 9-14).
  - 4. The blind man (John 9:1-7).
  - 5. The plan of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
- D. For the sake of Christ, a child of God may be called upon to endure persecution (Acts 14:22), hatred (Matthew 10:22), loss of life (Matthew 10:39), loss of earthly treasures (Matthew 19:29), loss of reputation (2 Corinthians 4:5), or death (2 Corinthians 4:11).

**Conclusion.** Are we not all fools? What type are you? Your indication today will be made by your willingness to identify with Christ. Ecclesiastes 2:14 says, "The fool walketh in darkness" and that is descriptive of every fool that we looked at except the Christian fool. The Christian fool walks in

the light (Ephesians 5:8). If you are afraid of being a fool for Christ, then you need to think about your condemnation (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).