

Salvation For You

Psalm 14

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.

There are **fools** in this world who **say in their hearts, "This is no God."**

There are also people in this world who, while they know there is a God, **act** foolishly. That's us. When we **corrupt** our ways, when we **do abominable deeds**, when we join the mass of men who do not good, but sinful, wicked deeds.

The Lord looks down from heaven, and what does He see? Do we understand what we are doing? Are we seeking after Him, or after our own

desires?

There is none who does good, not even one. That sounds pretty harsh. But I have to admit . . . how often do I hurt, not help? How often do I fail to do the good I know I should? How often does sin get the better of me? And how often do I use my words to sink my teeth into my neighbor and **eat up** his reputation instead of calling upon the Lord (praying) for him or her?

I should be in **great terror!** For all this, what will God do to me?

I know what He *should* do, but this is what He DID do: **salvation came out of Zion.** The Lord sent His Son to be my salvation, to suffer my shame and punishment and so to be my refuge. So that in my sin I need not cower in fear, but have somewhere to go . . . to HIM, to the one who bore my sins on the cross and spoke these words from there in His deepest agony: *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34). Forgive ME!

And with that, **the Lord has restored the fortunes of his people!** Of me! So that I am not lost because of my sin, but can rejoice and be glad in my Saviour, in Jesus. In Him, I no longer need be the fool, but can act wisely, repenting of my foolishness and my foolish sins and receiving His forgiveness. Thanks be to God!

Lord God, look down from heaven and see not my sin, but Your Son who is my refuge, whose blood covers all my sin and provides for me the forgiveness I need. As Your forgiven child, help me now not to act the fool anymore, but to live in faith toward You and in love toward my neighbor, living toward the good You would work in me for others, through Jesus Christ, my salvation. Amen.