Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXV | April 27, 2025 | No. 17

Foolish Thinking

(Jerry Fite)

Knowing the endangerment of the hell of fire in calling one a fool, one should tread lightly when examining the characteristics that makes one such *(cf. Matthew 5:22).* While refusing to consider our fellow man as a moronic worthless individual who is unworthy of life, we can escape Jesus' prescribed endangerment, and profit from Jesus' warning in avoiding the sin of murder.

Should we then avoid examining what the Scriptures label *"foolishness,"* or what makes a man a *"fool"*? We do so unto our own peril, because not one of us is immune from thinking foolishly *(Mark 7:22).*

Jesus, in His parable of the rich man, reveals God calling the man, *"thou foolish one."* Why such an epithet? The man assumed he had the guarantee of *"many years"* before him *(Luke 12:19).* His present riches created such conceit to ignore the place of God in his life. This was a foolish mistake. For in the end he hears God say, "This night is thy soul required of thee" *(Luke 12:20).*

It is foolish to ignore the will of God by presuming we have another day of life (James 4:15). It is foolish to think we will never be separated from our earthly possessions. At death, all leave earth as they entered: naked and empty handed *(Ecclesiastes 5:15, I Timothy 6:7).* Considering what God says to the rich man in consequence of this fact, it would be also foolish to assume that the new possessor of the deceased's possession will be wise, and not foolish *(Ecclesiastes 2:18-19).*

David writes, *"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" (Psalm 14:1, 53:1).* Thinking God does not exist, one will surely not seek after God. One will therefore rob himself of the wise understanding to seek God. *"Jehovah looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek after God" (Psalm 14:2).* God wants all to seek Him, and encourages our endeavor by saying He is not far from any of us *(Acts 17:27).* Through the Gospel, we find God and His wisdom n His Son, Jesus Christ. *"But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who was made unto us wisdom from God..." (I Corinthians 1:30).*

The thought of there being no God to be accountable to leads some to oppress others. *"Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon Jehovah?" (Psalms 14:4).* You think God does not see what you are doing to your fellow man? You satisfy your selfish desires without considering the will of God, and take no deeper thought of your actions than that of eating a piece of bread. This is foolish thinking and harmful to any community.

The problem for the atheist or even the practical atheist, who thinks they can act without Divine retribution, is the day that retribution comes. That day happened for the rich man, and it occurs in David's Psalm of the fool. The day comes when "There were they in great fear" *(Psalm 14:5).* "There were they in great fear, where no fear was; for God hath scattered the bones of them that encampeth against thee: Thou hast put them to shame because God hath rejected them" *(Psalm 53:5).* The fool may mockingly shame the counsel of those who take refuge in Jehovah, but in the end Jehovah stands and the mockers cower before Him. In the day of the Lord, all will bow their knee confessing Him *(Romans 14:11).* In that day, will anyone doubt the foolishness of thinking there is no God?