

Are We Fools?

No. 203

Introduction.

I. One of the most hated and contemptible words in the English language is the word "fool." No one likes to be called or classified as a fool. Even though no one likes to be called a fool, the fact remains that some are fools according to the word of God.

II. For the next few minutes I would like for us to discuss the question, "Are We Fools?"

I. **If We Say There Is No God** - We are fools if we say there is no God. (Psa. 14:1).

A. According to the Bible only a fool would say there is no God.

1. **There is much evidence for God.** There is too much evidence for God to deny or even doubt His existence. As we view the vast, beautiful, intricate universe we know it did not happen by mere chance. There is a Maker. (Psa. 19:1).

2. The Bible teaches the evidence for God's existence is so strong, so overwhelming, so convincing that the one who denies God is "without excuse." (Rom. 1:20).

B. On one occasion a **young skeptic declared to an aged Quaker** that he would not believe in anything he had not seen. The old Quaker asked, "Didst thee ever see France?" "No, sir, but others have, and so my reason allows me to believe in its existence upon their testimony." "Ah, thou wilt believe only in what thee or another hast seen." "That's it, you have the idea exactly," said the skeptic. The wise old Quaker then asked, "Didst thee ever see thy brains?" "No sir." "Didst thee ever see anyone who has seen them?" "No sir." "Dost thee believe thee has any?"

C. On another occasion there was a **notorious infidel** who delighted in blaspheming God and trying to destroy the faith others had in Him. One day, in the height of his folly, he challenged God, if such a Being existed, to fight him in a certain woods. He went boastfully into the woods shouting, "If there be a God, let Him come down from heaven and fight me." Later he returned home apparently all right and boasting he had proven that God does not exist. But when in the woods a tiny midge had alighted on his eyelid, which he had brushed away paying no attention to it. That night it swelled up and blood poison set in, and a few days later he died. Is it any wonder that the psalmist said, "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." God sent one of His tiniest insects and the boasting braggart fell before it.

II. **If We Are Deceived By Strong Drink** - We are fools if we are deceived by strong drink. (Prov. 20:1).

A. Later Solomon wrote, in this same book, these words concerning strong drink. (Prov. 23:29-35).

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, Those who go to taste mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, When it sparkles in the cup, When it goes down smoothly; 32 At the last it

bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things, And your mind will utter perverse things. 34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, Or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. 35 "They struck me, but I did not become ill; They beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

1. In this passage **Solomon vividly pictures the person** who allows himself to be deceived by strong drink. He is a person with the redness of eyes. He is a person who has much woe and sorrow and heart ache. He is a person who brawls and who utters many foolish things.
2. There is a story told of a **man who was addicted to strong drink** and who could never find his house when he started home in the dark. So finally he decided to hang a lantern on his gate post. That way he would know which house was his. He did so and in the late hours of the night he started home. He came to where he could see the lantern. "Yep, that's my lantern," he said. He took it down and went on farther. "Yep, that's my door." He opened it and went inside. "Yep, this is my living room." He held the lantern up so he could see and saw his wife sitting on the divan in the arms of another man. "Yep, that's my wife and there I am making love to her." He thought a minute, then said: "But there's one thing I don't understand. If that's me on the divan, who's this crazy fool standing here holding this lantern?"

B. In the language of the drunk that's the way of strong drink. It makes fools of those who drink it.

1. Not only does strong drink make an utter fool of a person, it also does an untold amount of harm to others.
 - a. How many **children** have done without food, clothing, and the other essentials of life because of strong drink?
 - b. How many **wives** have been beaten and deprived of a decent home because of alcohol?
 - c. How **many people have lost their lives** in automobile accidents because someone was under the influence of this devilish drink?
2. Truly the one deceived by it is not wise.

III. If We Merely Hear The Word - We are fools if we merely hear the word.

- A. Some time ago I had **one of the most pathetic experiences** of my life. One afternoon I talked with a man who had spend numerous hours reading the Bible and could quote hundreds of passages from memory, but who was not a Christian and was not even close to the kingdom. He was content to know the word.
- B. **There are millions of other like this man in the world today.** They know much of the Bible. They know they should submit their lives to Jesus. They know they should live righteously. They know they should faithfully attend church services. They know they should be kind. They know they should read the scriptures and visit the sick and the wayward but they are content to do nothing and often excuse themselves by saying, "I know what is right."
- C. **Friends,** I say in the kindest but in the most forceful way I know that hell will be filled with people who know all these things.

1. Knowing is not enough.

2. A man must be a doer of the word. (Matt. 7:21; Lk. 6:46; Jas. 1:22; 4:17).

IV. If We Sow One Thing In Life And Expect To Reap Something Else In Death - We are fools if we sow one thing in life and expect to reap something else in death.

A. What would you think of a man who sowed weeds and expected to reap wheat at the harvest time? You would say that he is pretty foolish, wouldn't you? So is the man who thinks that he can sow a life of sin and reap something else in death. (Gal. 6:7).

B. In Luke the 16th chapter Jesus said. (Lk. 16:19-26).

19 "Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, gaily living in splendor every day. 20 "And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22 "Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.' 25 "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'

1. One time a **Sunday school teacher** told her class of boys this story of the rich man and Lazarus. When she concluded the lesson she asked this question, "Boys, which would you rather be, the rich man or Lazarus?" One boy promptly replied, "I would be the rich man while I live and Lazarus when I die."

2. **This little boy expressed the desire of millions of people.**

a. They want to live like the rich man and die like Lazarus, but nothing could be more impossible.

b. We cannot live like the rich man and enjoy the blessings Lazarus had when he died. "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap." If we live like the rich man, forgetting God and man, we will be cast into the fires of hell, not for a day, not for a week, not for a year, not even for a thousand years, but for all eternity. (Matt. 25:41).

V. If We Do Not Believe Jesus Is Coming Again - We are fools if we do not believe Christ is coming again.

A. The Bible clearly teaches that Christ is coming a second time to judge the world. (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11;

Heb. 9:28).

- B. Some time ago **I read of an old preacher who preached a stirring sermon** this subject, but some modern preachers said, “We don’t agree with you on this doctrine. We just can’t get it out of the Bible.” The wise old man said, “You’re right, gentlemen - you can’t get it out. It is there to stay!” These words are so true. Jesus is coming again and we cannot get it out of the Bible. It is there to stay and there is no way we can change that fact.
- C. **Fools** often mock this teaching by saying, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** You do not really believe Christ is coming again? After all it has been nearly 2,000 years since Christ made the promise. Maybe He has forgotten His promise or perhaps He is unable to come.”
1. The apostle Peter warned us that there would be men who would mock the second coming of Christ and contend it was a myth or fairy tale.
 2. Listen to the forceful way **Peter refutes these mockers.** (2 Pet. 3:8-10).

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

- a. Peter answers these mockers by saying that the **passing of time** means nothing to the Eternal God. A thousand years or even ten thousand years is as a day to God. We must not think that because the Lord has delayed that He is not coming.
- b. Peter also affirms that the delay of the Lord is **due to His longsuffering.** God wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. He does not want any to perish so He delays, but the day will come when the Lord will suddenly appear as a thief in the night to judge man and destroy the world.

Conclusion.

- I. **Peter** said, “Seeing that these things are all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy living and godliness?” (2 Pet. 3:11).
 - A. **The answer to this question is obvious.** We should be a prepared people. For only prepared people will be saved in that great day.
 - B. The time to make preparation for that great day is now. Tomorrow may be too late. Tomorrow death may overtake us or Jesus may suddenly appear without warning.
- II. **In fact, Jesus could appear today.** If Jesus were to appear today, would you be saved or lost. Would you greet the Lord with joy or would you weep and try to hide in the darkest and most secluded corner you know? Why not make preparation by giving your life to Jesus Christ. Put your trust in Him. Be buried with Him in baptism. Live for Him all your days. Come as we stand and sing.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)