

Four Fools

The word "fool" is a harsh word. We are not to use it lightly or insultingly.

Matt. 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell."

But the scriptures use this very word to describe some whose thoughts and actions are so far out of line with God that they are obviously and certainly hell-bound.

I. The Atheist Fool Ps. 14:1

Ps. 14:1 "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good."

A. Wicked Heart Cause of Unbelief

If he sins he wants to disbelieve.

If he disbelieves, he usually sins.

B. Reasonableness?

1.) Origin of God

who can conceive God? So what is the origin of the idea?

2.) Origin of the Universe – Design Argument

telescope - to eye

watch - to rotation of planets and other bodies

when I look at a watch what do I see? functional jewelry

when I look at my Russian watch - I see less style and less reliable design - reflects on designer

Consider just one element in the cosmos - Eclipses

"...Any particular town or city would on the average experience about 40 lunar and 20 partial solar eclipses in 50 years, but one total solar eclipse in 400 years. The sun returns to the same node after each eclipse year; new moons (or full moons) recur at intervals of an ordinary month. Nineteen eclipse years (6585.7806 days) are nearly equal to 223 months (6585.3211 days). After this interval of 18 years 11 days, which is called saros, the moon and sun come nearly to the same relative positions again and the eclipses will repeat themselves. Thus the solar eclipse of Oct. 2, 1959 was a repetition of that of Sept. 21, 1941, which was a repetition of that of Sept. 10, 1923, which was a repetition of that of Aug. 30, 1905 and so on...(see table).

"In ancient times the saros [18 yr. 11 mo. period] was used for the prediction of eclipses."

"It is possible with the aid of modern tables to predict solar eclipses several years ahead with an accuracy of a few seconds." Encyclopedia Britannica

C. Claims of the Bible

now if you find a wonderful elaborate machine, then you find a book that perfectly explains the machine even in finest details what would you think? that the man who wrote the book was the designer of the machine

then we examine the Bible and the cosmos

2600 times the Bible claims to be the Word of God

II. Fool Hears and Does Not Obey **Matt. 7:21-27**

Matt. 7:21-27 “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.”

A. Salvation is Conditioned on Faithful Obedience

Luke 6:46 “And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?”

Jn. 13:17 “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

Acts 10:34,35 “And opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.”

2 Thess. 1:7-9 “and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”

1 Jn. 2:4-6 “The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.”

B. Because of Value of the Soul

Matt. 16:26,27 “For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.”

C. Benefits of Living By the Word

1.) Makes Us Better While We Live

1 Pet. 2:1,2 “Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”

Acts 20:32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

2.) Comfort in Both Life and Death

Rom. 15:4 “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

1 Thess. 4:13-18 “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of [the] archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

3.) It Will Be Our Judge

Jn. 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

III. Those Who Obey The Gospel But Don't Live It Gal. 3:1

Gal. 3:1 “You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed *as* crucified?”

A. Lost Christians in Worse Condition Than Sinners

2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “ADOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,” and, “Asow, after washing, [returns] to wallowing in the mire.”

B. This is Situation in Hebrew Letter

Heb. 2:1-3 “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away *from it*.

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense,

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? “

Heb. 6:4-6 “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

- 5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame.”
Heb. 10:26-31 “For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,
27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and THE FURY OF AFIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.
28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses.*
29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."
31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

C. This is Totally Unnecessary

- Acts 8:20-24** “But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!
21 You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.
22 Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.
23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."
24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me”
2 Cor. 6:1,2 “And working together *with Him*, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—
2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU"; behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION”

IV. The Materialistic Fool Luke 12:16-21

Jesus said he was a fool - we would very often call him a success.

- Luke 12:16-21** “And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a certain rich man was very productive.
17 And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?'
18 And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry."
20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This *very* night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?'
21 So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

A. What Was Foolish?

- 1.) Not:
 - a.) making money - he did honestly
 - b.) saving money - Bible teaches

- 2.) But:
- a.) "I" and "my" *only*
 - b.) Left God out of his life
 - c.) no place seen for wife and family
 - d.) no place for fellow man - generosity from bounty
 - e.) no preparation for next life
 - f.) thought material things = happiness
 - g.) covetous & selfish

B. What Time Is It Anyway?

man says I have many years - God said, "This night"

Jas. 4:13-17 "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit."

14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are *just* a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

15 Instead, *you ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."

16 But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

C. He's Ahead of the Jones?

man gets a decent Ford - then have to scrimp for or borrow for new one

happy with Ford - until the man goes by in a bigger, nicer Buick

get the Buick - happy until the man goes by in the Cadillac

also have to get an equal one for the wife

he and wife argue over who gets the newer, bigger one.

don't love the world

1 Jn. 2:15-17 "Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever."

Jas. 4:4 "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

Foolish

not to believe

not to act

not to continue

not to be distracted by the world

Don't Be Foolish This Morning...