

### **Ship of Fools (Psalm 14)**

- If the Bible repeats something three times it is a very important truth
- Psalm 14 is repeated almost entirely in the Psalms, with a variant (Ps 53)
- The most important part of Psalm 14 is repeated in Romans 3:10-12
- In fact, the first chapter of Romans is a commentary on Psalm 14
- What God says in Psalm 14 is important because He says it (3x) elsewhere

#### **I. The Fool Talks about God**

- This Psalm addresses atheism, which is both theoretical & practical
  - Hebrew “there is” is not present: literally the atheist says “No God for me”
  - This is a position of extreme folly: Psalm testifies “the fool has said”
  - The atheist is a fool because he knows there is a God but he denies it.
- 1) How does a person know there is a God? General Revelation (Rom 1:20)
- Revelation in creation is not sufficient to save us but it will condemn us
  - God made it clear enough for everyone to know & understand he is there
  - A child can look at creation & know someone made that (Rom 1:18,19)
- 2) If revelation in creations is so clear as Paul says, why do people reject it?
- Rom 1:18 tells us, men “suppress the truth”; they do not want God.
  - They hate God, they are wicked, he is righteous, they hate, he loves

#### **II. God Talks about the Fool**

- The folly of Psalm 14 is characteristic of all in their unrepentant state
- Note the terms: “the sons of men” and “any” “altogether” “not even one”
- Note the inclusive nature of God’s assessment of mankind, every part
- Vs 2-3 speak of all of man, Paul sums man’s entire corruption (Rom 3)

#### **III. The Path of the Fool**

- The way of the fool, (of the whole human race) & we never seem to learn
- The way of the fool, occasionally they are in “great terror” vs. 5
- Psalm 53:5 inserts “where there is no terror” God gives them over to fear.

#### **IV. Calm Hope of Deliverance**

- The Psalmist doesn’t fear, he has learned what the unrighteous don’t know
- He concludes with a prayer that is so tranquil it’s like a sigh (vv 5-7)
- The righteous have true sanctification & redemption, how? (1 Cor 1:30)