

Classified As Fools

Intro: Mat. 5:22 ²² But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.” Have you ever wondered why our Lord placed such a severe condemnation upon calling our brethren, *fools*? *Fool* is used very extensively and lightly or casually today, but our Lord cautions its use.

1. The dictionary gives the definition as one who is void of judgment, silly, unwise, etc.
2. The Bible definitions includes the dictionary usage, but, embraces much more.
3. Let us notice who the Bible classifies as a fool.

I. ONE WHO CLAIMS THERE IS NO GOD.

A. Psa. 14:1 ¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.* They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good.*”

B. Psa. 53:1 ¹ The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.* Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is none that doeth good.*”

1. Why is he a fool?
2. Because there is so much evidence of God.

C. Nature attest to the reality of God.

1. Psa. 19:1 ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament sheweth his handywork.”
 - a. Whence came this world? It either produced itself or it was created.
 - b. Heb. 3:4 ⁴ For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.”
 - c. cf. a watch.
 - d. One would have to be omnipotent and omnipresent and omni-visual to say there is “no God”.
 - e. To say such is to go contrary to man’s nature for man by nature believes in a Supreme Being.
2. Rom. 1:18-20 ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

D. Revelation demands faith in God.

1. The Bible proves God.
2. Man could not write such a book.

II. ONE WHO LEAVES GOD OUT OF HIS PLANS.

A. Luke 12:16-21 ¹⁶ And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹ So *is* he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” **cf. Jam. 4:13-16** ¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: ¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth

for a little time, and then vanisheth away. ¹⁵ For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. ¹⁶ But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.”

- B. This one believes in God but only from the standpoint of His existence.**
- C. The world would call him wise but our Lord calls him a fool.**

III. ONE WHO TRUST IN HIS OWN HEART.

- A. Pro. 28:26** ²⁶ He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”
- B. Pro. 12:15** ¹⁵ The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.”
- C. Why is he a fool?**
 1. Jer. 10:23 ²³ O Lord, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”
 2. Pro. 14:12 ¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.”
 - a. We should not be content to say “I think it is alright.”
 - b. Pro. 3:5 ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

IV. ONE WHO HEARS THE LORD’S WORD YET DOES NOT OBEY THAT WORD.

- A. Mat. 7:24-27** ²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”
- B. Jam. 1:22-25** ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: ²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. ²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
- C. How very foolish to hear the words of eternal life and yet reject them. cf. a prisoner who refuses pardon.**

Conclusion: One can readily see why brethren should not be called *fools*. They are the very opposite of fools. There is but one fool approved of God; 1 Cor. 4:10 ¹⁰ We *are* fools for Christ’s sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised.”