

# The Absolute Folly of Atheism

A Sermon on Psalm 53:1a

by

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## 1. Introduction

## 2. Act 1: Atheism Explored

### *a. The intellectual atheist.*

- i. The intellectual atheist is the one who claims to reject God on the basis of pure reason and factual deduction.
  1. A great many arguments abound for this kind of atheism, but at the heart of them all is the stated desire for evidence.
  2. Make no mistake, this kind of unbelief is often a very rigorous kind of unbelief, but it ends in deciding God is merely a figment of human's imagination, concocted for purpose.
- ii. As a result, the self-dubbed intellectual atheist is left with one of two conclusions: they will either embrace a form of humanism or nihilism.
  1. Humanism is simply the belief that mankind is innately good and emphasizes that the highest good you can do is in this life.
    - a. The problem with this is that it is a bold-faced lie, and everybody knows it because of the destruction and devastation of sin.
    - b. If you're honest with yourself and the way this world is, the only consistent position you will come to in your rejection of God is nihilism.

2. Nihilism is purposelessness. There is no ultimate meaning to life. There is no real reason why you should do good. All you have is your life, and even this is without purpose.

- a. This is just as bold a lie as believing mankind is basically good and our highest purpose is our happiness—and everyone knows it.
- b. There is meaning and purpose to life, and every aspect of creation screams this.

*b. The lazy atheist.*

i. The lazy atheist is the person who wants the appearance of being the intellectual, but they don't want any of the hard work that comes with it.

- 1. For them, claiming atheism is merely the get out of jail free card.
- 2. When the topic of religion comes up, they can pull out their trump card and avoid having any awkward conversations.

ii. The problem with the lazy atheist, just like the intellectual atheist, is that it is a bold-faced lie.

- 1. They haven't poured every fiber of their being into studying the Bible, let alone understanding who the One True God is.
  - a. At the end of the day, they reject God because they do not want to order their lives in submission to God.
  - b. There is some personal sin they treasure, some way of life they don't want to give up, or even some sense of fairness they hold to that they believe God is guilty of violating.

2. If you press anyone who claims atheism hard enough, this is ultimately where they will land.

c. *The practical atheist.*

i. The practical atheist is one who lives without any reference to God.

1. To put it quite simply, these are the ones that go about their rather ordinary lives as if God doesn't exist.

2. They do not consider God in what they do, nor do they give much of a passing thought to Him.

a. This is the person who is vaguely spiritual, follows another world religion, and follows no religion at all.

b. But this is also the one who claims the Christian faith, but refuses to submit themselves to God and His Word.

ii. This is the majority of American Evangelicalism. Many show up to church each and every week, and their life bears little to no resemblance of what it actually means to follow Christ.

1. They conduct their private life separately from their religious life, but in the end, they too are merely a liar, like the intellectual and lazy atheist.

2. They are no closer to the Kingdom of God than anyone else, because they have failed to place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

a. This is precisely what David has in mind when he speaks to the one who rejects God in his heart.

b. Yet we are often so prone to missing just how far reaching this reality truly is.

**3. Act 2: Atheism Exposed**

a. *Atheism is fundamentally a problem of the heart.*

- i. When Scripture speaks to the heart of mankind, what it refers to is the seat of one's emotion.
  1. The heart is the foundation of all that you believe and hope in.
    - a. It informs what you believe, why you believe it, and even the intent you have behind your thoughts.
    - b. But the heart also involves all that informs why you do the things you do.
  2. At the deepest level of who we are; our mind, emotions, even our desires, apart from the grace of God, have all been marred beyond repair due to the power and presence of sin.
    - a. The larger problem is that we are utterly blind to just how wayward and sinful our hearts truly are. But God is not.
    - b. Ultimately, our own hearts expose us for who we truly are, because everything flows from the heart.
- ii. The heart also exposes what it is we truly love and who we truly are (Matt. 12:33-35).
  1. "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil" (Matthew 12:33-35).
  2. The point that Jesus makes here is very simple: what the tree is made of will determine the fruit that it bears.
    - a. But notice that the basis of judgment is on the words they speak. One's words reveal what a person truly believes, hopes in, and loves.

- b. All you need to do to determine what another man treasures, is listen to him speak.

b. *Atheism is nothing more than the willful suppression of the truth in unrighteousness.*

- i. The first point to understand is that God has deliberately revealed Himself to every man—and they are left without excuse.

- 1. In v. 18 Paul tells us that God has revealed His wrath from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteous of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

- a. God has made it clear, in other words, that there is a day of judgment coming for sin.

- b. No man can deny sin, twist it, or reject it, nor can he do so with regard to God's coming wrath upon the sinner.

- 2. Yet man, who innately knows this truth, actively suppresses the knowledge of God's wrath against sin in their unrighteousness.

- a. This suppression of truth is not due to ignorance, but a deliberate "pushing down" of the truth so that they may continue in rebellion.

- b. Yet none of this removes the fact that God has revealed the truth to us.

- ii. "Because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them" (Rom. 1:19).

- 1. This is the same reality that Ecclesiastes 3:11 speaks to when it says that God has stamped eternity on the hearts of men.

- a. Inwardly, in the core of your being, God has made Himself known to you, and He has done so clearly.





- d. The apostle John declares that this way of life that the world prizes, and all who love it, are fading away and destined to be destroyed—but the one who does the will of the Father will live forever.

*d. Atheism is born out of a hatred of God and His ways.*

- i. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him”—and that’s right about where we stop, isn’t it? But notice, “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light. Why? For their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God” (John 3:16-21).
- ii. This is a terrifying passage for the unbeliever—but it also exposes the heart of mankind in full. The one who does not believe in Jesus Christ, does so for two explicit reasons.
  - 1. He loves the darkness rather than the Light, which is to simply say that He loves his sin, and hates Jesus Christ.
    - a. There’s no middle ground. You either love Christ and hate sin, or you love sin and hate Christ.
    - b. You cannot have it any other way—so which is it? What will you choose this day?



2. Secondly, the one who rejects Jesus Christ does so out of fear that his evil deeds will be exposed as he comes into the Light.
  - a. He does not reject God on intellectual grounds. He does not reject Jesus Christ because he truly believes that his own actions are moral.
  - b. He flees, in fear that his deeds will be exposed, and the truth of who he really is, will all come out.

#### **4. Atheism Eradicated**

*a. The righteous wrath of God is compounding day by day until the Day of Judgment.*

- i. Romans 2 tells us that God has been exceedingly patient and kind with the unbelieving fool—but that patience and kindness is not without reason.
  1. It is not designed for you to continue to live in rejection of your God, nor is it that you can continue in your rebellion.
    - a. God’s patience towards you is designed to bring you to repentance and faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ.
    - b. Day by day, breath by breath, God is giving you yet another moment, so that you may turn from death to life.
  2. But God’s patience and kindness is also not without a limit.
    - a. Try as you might to keep yourself healthy, all men will go the way of death, and then face judgment.
    - b. You cannot escape it, shrug it off with indifference, or even pretend as if everything is fine.
- ii. But know this: each moment you delay your repentance and faith in Jesus due to your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are merely storing up more and more wrath for yourself on the day God’s righteous judgment is revealed.

1. You are not tilting the scales in your favor by doing good or even attending church today. If your faith and hope is not in Jesus Christ, as He revealed Himself to be, everything you do and think is only adding more wrath.
2. All of your good works are merely glorious sins to be judged and He will repay you accordingly for everything.

*b. Every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

- i. If you hear this and somehow think that you'll happily go to hell along with the rest of the unbelieving world and party it up, again, you are a fool.
- ii. Scripture states you'll still bow the knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. You'll even praise God for His righteous judgment and wrath being poured out upon you for all eternity.
  1. So, when David tells us that, "The fool in his heart says, 'There is no God,'" this is precisely why he says it.
  2. Whether you simply reject the existence of God entirely, or you live as if God doesn't exist, it really doesn't make much of a difference in the end. You will still bow the knee and praise your Maker, one way or the other.
    - a. So, how do you solve this dilemma of yours? How do you forsake the way of the fool and find life, forgiveness, and even hope?
    - b. Well ultimately, the solution is found in embracing your fear of God and coming into the Light, rather than trying to scramble and hide yourself in the darkness. The antidote to being a fool is to embrace the fear of the Lord, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

## **5. Conclusion**