

Series: Psalm
Title: Lost in Shameless Ignorance
Text: Psalm 14: 4-7
Date: March 24, 2013
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Last week we took the first half of Psalm 14, hearing God declare that those who say no to God's command to believe on Christ break the first table of the law, which is against God.

Proposition: In the second half of Psalm 14, God declares that those who say no to God's command to believe on Christ also break the second table of the law, which is against the Lord's people.

I will give you our divisions as I read our text.

Divisions: I. THE IGNORANCE OF THE UNBELIEVER--**Psalm 14: 4: Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.** II. THE FEAR OF THE UNBELIEVER--**5: There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. 6: Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.** III. THE FAITH OF THE BELIEVER--**7: Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.**

I. THE IGNORANCE OF THE UNBELIEVER—Psalm 14: 4: Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

The LORD says, "Are you not even convicted in your natural conscious? Is there not one worker of iniquity who understands that you are eating up MY PEOPLE? Do you not see you are heaping ruin upon your own head?"

They Eat Up My People

God says in our text, "They eat up my people." All unbelievers are guilty of eating up the LORD's people in some regard. There is no neutrality in this warfare. Christ said,

Matthew 12:30: He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

First, unregenerate religious leaders and civil leaders are guilty. False teachers take advantage of sinners for personal gain. Universally, among all false teachers past and present, the false doctrine of salvation by the work of man is the common heresy. Whether they teach sinners have a free-will or that justification is by the contribution of the sinner or if they deny some aspect of total depravity or unconditional election or limited atonement or irresistible grace or preservation of the saints, all works religion, in some way, teaches salvation, rewards in heaven or loss of rewards, based on the sinner's works rather than teaching the truth that salvation is A-Z of the Lord. God describes all false teachers as cannibals.

Micah 3: 1: And I said, Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; [Is it] not for you to know judgment? 2: Who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; 3: Who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron. 4: Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings. 5: Thus

saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Also, God charges rich men in business as eating up the LORD's people. In greed they have turned the marketplace into a place of robbery—making life hard for the LORD's people, attempting to force us to forsake days we worship to do their work.

Amos 8: 4: Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, 5: Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? 6: That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; *yea*, and sell the refuse of the wheat? 7: The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. 8: Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt.

Also, every unbelieving family, and every unbeliever living among believers, is guilty of eating up Lord's people:

Jeremiah 10: 25: Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.

They eat up the Lord's people, by rejecting our God and our Gospel. Their words against our Redeemer eat us up.

Application: Each unbeliever here should know, the believers here and in your house are eaten up in sorrow of heart at your lack of concern of the fact that you are perishing in unbelief. Think of how many are born in the darkness of their dead hearts into families where everyone is in the same spiritual death. They teach one another darkness is light. So they live and die never asking, 'Am I not in the way of destruction?' Unbeliever, do you not see what a valuable thing you have, to have loved ones who know the truth, who desire to teach you the truth?

As They Eat Bread

God says, v4: They eat up the LORD's people, "as they eat bread." The way a man eats his earthly bread is the way the unregenerate man eats up the Lord's people.

- Without any more conscious thought—toward God or toward the LORD's people—than they have of eating a piece of bread.

Application: Unbelievers here today, you've probably never even considered that by your rebellion against God you are eating up God's people in your own house and here, causing injury, grief and oppression in many ways.

- They do it daily. Just as men always have an appetite to eat bread, unbelievers have a continual appetite to eat up the Lord's people, to consistently reject our Savior and thus reject us.
- With their mouths. Just as the unregenerate man bites and devours his bread so with his mouth the unbeliever eats up the LORD's people, gnashing upon the believer with his teeth and belching out opposition against our Savior, Ps 59:7: Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips:...

- **Verse 4: And call not upon the LORD.** Unbelieving sinners eat up those who pray for them, yet they will not pray for themselves.

Christ tells us why unregenerate men eat up the Lord's people.

John 15: 18: If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20: Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21: But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. 22: If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23: He that hateth me hateth my Father also. 24: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. 25: But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

II. THE FEAR OF THE UNBELIEVER—Psalm 14: 5: There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. 6: Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

God is In His People

God is in the generation of the righteous--Generation refers to God's spiritual race—his seed—his children.

Psalm 22:30: A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

1 Peter 2:9: But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;...

God's children are righteous by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us through faith.

Isaiah 54: 17:...their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Christ took our flesh for us, lived for us, died for us, called us, quickened us, made us righteousness in him, and Christ keep us—"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." (Jn 6: 39; 10: 28) Therefore our text says, God is in his people, who he has made righteous.

- Personally, through the Holy Spirit, Christ abides within each believer:

John 6:56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth IN ME, and I IN HIM.

John 17:23 I IN THEM, and thou IN ME, that they may be made perfect IN ONE; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth IN ME and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- Collectively, Christ is in the midst of his church, his golden candlesticks

Revelation 1:13:..in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

- Both are meant when Paul wrote:

Philippians 1:6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work IN YOU will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:...2:13: For it is God which worketh IN YOU both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

The Fearful and the Unafraid

Because God is in us, we are not fearful of the things that terrify ungodly men—and that terrifies the ungodly—verse 5 says, “There were they in great fear: [because] God *is* in the generation of the righteous. Ps 53 adds, “where there was no fear.”

Have you noticed, the closer this world comes to the day of judgment the more fearful the unregenerate world becomes? Yet, they are fearful of THINGS: fearful we will run out of water, fearful of climate change, fearful of guns. One of the false doctrines of our day is separatism—that good and evil is in things. So with all man’s might he is trying to avoid some things and save other things. This is fear where there is no fear.

So when the unregenerate behold believers are NOT fearful of the things they are fearful of, not even of the ungodly themselves, it is a sign to the ungodly that God indeed is in the generation of the righteous and the ungodly is reminded he is an enemy of God.

Philippians 1:28: And in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Example: King Saul hated David, sought to kill him. But when God manifested his presence in David, it struck Saul’s conscience with fear. "Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul." (1 Sam 18: 10-11)

Isaiah 4:5:..the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all, the glory shall be a defence. [Paul said] 2 Co 12:9: And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. [Peter said] 1 Peter 4:14: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Shaming Rather Than Believing

The LORD says to the rebel, though you fear because I am in my people, yet instead of believing on me, you shame them for trusting me, “5: There were [you] in great fear: [because you behold] God is in the generation of the righteous. [Yet,] 6: Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.”

This was particularly true of Christ when he walked this earth: God was in Christ. Christ is the Poor—he had no place to lay his head. The counsel he gave was believe God. Though they beheld God was in Christ, rather than believing God, they shamed his counsel.

Psalm 22:7: All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8: He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

Psalm 42:10: As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?

Now, Christ our Counselor, through the Holy Spirit, has made us willing in the day of his power to lay hold of Christ our Refuge. Our counsel to the unbeliever is seek refuge in the Lord Jesus. In Christ the believer is protected on all sides by our Savior: he goes before us and is our rearward; he is beside us, above us and underneath are his everlasting arms

Psalm 46:5: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Yet, even though the rebel beholds we are not fearful of their fear because Christ is in our midst, rather than believe on Christ, he shames our counsel because the LORD is our Refuge.

Application: Friend, don't shame my counsel. And don't call my Counselor a liar any longer by your unbelief. My Counselor cannot lie—he has counseled-decreed within himself before the world was made. But when he revealed his promise to Abraham, he also, confirmed it with an oath.

Illustration: In a court of law, when men are sworn-in, they swear by the greater. They lift their hand to God and make an oath to God that they promise to “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.”

Hebrews 6: 16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife.

God who cannot lie counseled with himself to save his people by himself and revealed his counsel to Abraham—made a promise to save Abraham and all his spiritual seed. But God who cannot lie, not only promised Abraham, he also confirmed his counsel with an oath, swearing by himself because there is none greater than God. So then we have from God who cannot lie both the decree of his counsel, plus his oath annexed to it.

Hebrews 6: 17: Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the IMMUTABILITY OF HIS COUNSEL, confirmed *it* BY AN OATH: 18: That by TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS in which *it was* IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for REFUGE to lay hold upon the hope set before us: 19: Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both SURE and STEDFAST,

Our hope is Jesus Christ who has entered into the presence of God as a Forerunner, guaranteeing us who believe, we shall likewise enter after we have run this race looking to him the Author and Finisher of faith. He ran the race looking to the joy set before him. He is the joy set before us.

This is why I say to you, sinner, don't shame the counsel of my Counselor. Believe my Counselor. His counsel is unchangeable. But he is so willing for his people to know he shall save us, that he interposed himself with an oath. If he promises to be a refuge to you—even confirming it by an oath—then he shall be a refuge for you.

Now, sinner you will either be with us safe and secure from the enemy IN Christ our Refuge or you will be outside and BE THE ENEMY of Christ our Refuge.

"The workers of iniquity" shamed Christ on the cross who made the LORD God his refuge as he suffered for his people, BUT our Refuge put them to shame, Psalm 53 verse 5 says, "for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them."

But, believer, the fear that grips the world of the wicked is of the LORD and for a reason, like it was in Moses day:

Exodus 15:16: Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.

Believer, everything in this world—good and evil—our God is working together "for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

III. THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE BELIEVER—Psalm 14: 7: Oh that the salvation of Israel *were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.*

Christ Breaks the Chains

Christ is the Salvation of God's people—his Israel. Though we are eaten up and scoffed at because the LORD is our Refuge, even for our enemies, we pray for Christ to come out of Zion and save you. When he came the first time—he "brought back the captivity of his people"—he led captivity captive. If he comes today into your heart he will do the same. This one you call a liar, sinner, is the only one who can break those chains that hold you in your captivity. When he redeemed all his elect on Calvary's tree—"Jacob rejoiced!"—if he comes to day so will you—this conniving, tricking, supplanting Jacob standing before you is proof—he makes all his Jacob's rejoice in the day of his power! If he does—"Israel shall rejoice!"—all his people—these very ones you once ate up, and shamed, we shall all rejoice with you. And we shall all rejoice in the LORD.

And, believer, though our enemies rage right now—the faith of the believer is to wait, watch and pray—for soon very soon. Christ Jesus the Salvation of Israel shall return out of Zion! When he does he shall free us completely from all captivity into his glorious presence. Then with all his saints together at last—Jacob shall rejoice and Israel shall be glad.

Sinner, stop eating up God's people and call on the Lord for mercy, eat the Bread from heaven. Stop fearing THINGS. You see we are not fearful: of YOU or your THINGS—Christ is our Refuge. But don't keep scoffing at us because Christ is our Refuge—get in the Refuge. Believe on Christ. I pray he comes now and bring back your captivity. What rejoicing we will have in the Lord if he does.

Believer, keep asking the Lord to break their chains and keep watching and waiting. He is coming. I'm telling you he is coming.

Amen!