

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Acts 26:24-29**.
- B. Webster defines a fool as a person who has little or no judgment, common sense or wisdom.
- C. Fools will spiritually die because of their lack of understanding (Prov. 10:21).
- D. And we can go a step further, the Bible says that "**fools despise wisdom and instruction**" (ignorance is not bliss, its foolishness), see Prov. 1:7b.
- E. This morning's lesson: five Bible fools. What do the Scriptures teach us about them?

## I. THE FIRST FOOL--THE ATHEIST.

- A. Scripture text: Psalm 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.*
- B. Many of us are familiar with Psa. 14:1 but let us take a look at the entire verse and answer the question as to why this is true.
- C. The atheist is a fool because:
  1. All his deeds are corruptible; they are living a lie (Rom. 1:25).  
*For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*
  2. No one does good because there is only one who is good, God (Mk. 10:18).  
*And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.*
  3. All things point to the existence of God (Rom. 1:20).  
*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*
- D. It doesn't take a Ph.D. degree in logic to understand why the atheist is considered a fool:
  1. If there is no God; the Xian and the atheist have nothing to gain and nothing to lose.
  2. But, if there is a God; the Xian has nothing to lose, and everything to gain.
  3. And, if there is a God; the atheist has nothing to gain, and everything to lose.
- E. Another reason the atheist is a fool, is because he has nothing to offer:
  1. Where are the atheist hospitals, nursing homes, orphans' homes, and drug rehabilitation centers and half-way houses?
  2. Where are the atheist vocational rehabilitation centers, counseling services, family life centers, etc.?

## II. THE SECOND FOOL--THE RICH FOOL.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 12:16-21**.
- B. Have you ever heard the saying, "He counted his chickens before they hatched?" This comes from the Bible, see Jer. 17:11.
- C. The rich fool in our story counted his years before he had them, and all the preparations made for them was wasted.
- D. The rich fool's problem was that of misplaced values. Money can't buy happiness, added years of life, or contentment. Money cannot buy eternal life.
- E. Solomon tried materialism and found it to be nothing more than striving after the wind.
- F. Jesus has said, in the Sermon on the Mount, that we are not to lay up treasures on the earth, but in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21).  
*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

- G. Paul spoke of the man who spends his life in the pursuit of riches (1Tim. 6:6-10).  
But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. **7** For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. **8** And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. **9** But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang.

### III. THE THIRD FOOL--THE WISE FOOL.

- A. Scripture text: Acts 26:24-29.
- B. Being a wise fool is not a contradiction. Some have lived as such all their lives (Rom. 1:20-22).  
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. **21** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools,
- C. Agrippa knew the message that Paul preached was true, because Agrippa believed in the prophets. Agrippa became a fool for not becoming a Xian.
- D. How foolish it is when people hear the gospel time and time again and never obey it?
- E. How sad it is when men “keep on learning but never come to a knowledge of the truth”? (2Tim. 3:7).
- F. Wisdom comes from fearing God and keeping His commandments (Prov. 1:7; Eccl. 12:12-13).  
(**Prov 1:7**) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.  
(**Eccl 12:12-13**) But beyond this, my son, be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body. **13** The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.

### IV. THE FOURTH FOOL-THE CHURCH FOOL.

- A. Scripture text: Ephesians 5:15-17.  
Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
- B. Paul asks the Ephesian brethren not to be foolish with their time:
1. Make the most of your time (redeem it).
  2. Understand what the will of the Lord is.
- C. There are 3 things you can do with your time (life):
1. You can waste it (like that of the prodigal son).
  2. You can spend it (like that of the older son of Lk. 15).
  3. You can invest it (as Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount).
- D. “The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.”
- E. Satan loves for the church to spin its wheels. Unfortunately, we call it growth and maturity.

### V. THE FIFTH FOOL--THE FOOL FOR CHRIST.

- A. But there is one more kind of fool in the Bible. This is one that I want to be.
- B. Paul talks about it in 1Corinthians 4:9-13. (Read passage.)  
For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. **10** We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. **11** To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; **12** and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; **13** when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even until now*.
- C. To illustrate this fundamental truth, I tell the story of the man and the two "body signs" one side saying he was a fool for X, and the back side asking, "Whose fool, are you?"
- D. The atheist, the rich, the wise, and even the churched are fools for Satan, if they are not fools for X.
- E. My question to you today, "Whose fool, are you?"

## **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Five Bible fools:
  - 1. The atheist.
  - 2. The rich fool.
  - 3. The wise fool.
  - 4. The church fool.
  - 5. The fool for X.
- B. Are you a fool for X's sake?
- C. Jesus said, "Come and learn of me." Are you ready for "fools' school?"
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.