



**Studies in Psalms** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 53

11/28/12

Vs 1-3 show that fools without God are corrupt;

Vs 4-6 show that God remains on the side of "the generation of the righteous."

These statements are the same as with Psalm 14, because this Psalm is the same except for: "LORD" is used in Psalm 14:2,4,6,7 but "God" in Psalm 53; and Psalm 53:5 adds God's judgment against "workers of iniquity," but Psalm 14:5 doesn't!

**Verses 1-3:** "The fool" says "There is no God," with words of denial, or by the life of denial. The New Testament describes people living without God: "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work" (Titus 1:16). Whether stated or lived, one is a fool to disregard God! "Fool" means empty, evil, corrupt. All who do "not like to retain God in their knowledge" God gives over to a debased mind (Romans 1:28), for they are "having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Ephesians 4:18). Psalm 14:2-3 are the basis of Romans 3:10-12 which state that there is sometimes, overwhelming corruption of many in society. But both then in David's day, "now" when the Apostle Paul wrote the Book of Romans and even today, immorality abounds and is freely publicized through the media.

**Verses 4-6:** The "workers of iniquity" may bully God's people, but God remains on the side of the righteous (Psalm 14:4-7)! This same message is repeated in Psalm 53 with the added explanation of why those "workers of iniquity" themselves have reason to fear: "they are in great fear *Where* no fear was, For God has scattered the bones of him who encamps against you; You have put *them* to shame, Because God has despised them" (Psalm 53:5; Psalm 14:5). Sinners must notice, when bad things happen to them, God isn't on their side! Truly, "The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1). When the people of God are downcast and appear defeated, knowing the LORD has not left them, and that their salvation from persecution remains in His hand, they shall rejoice and be glad. The Apostle Paul shows Christians the same illustration in 2 Timothy 3:10-12: "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

The "fool" acts as if there was no God and persecutes the righteous; the righteous, while enduring the "fools," are reassured that they are still on God's "side." "The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall" (Proverbs 10:8).

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**All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.**