

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

ANSWERING A FOOL (Part 2)

By Jeff Sweeten

Throughout the Bible, God emphasizes the necessity of a soft and humble heart. If a person does not love the truth, it is powerless to help; it is objective and never changes (cf. John 14:6; Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6). The Bible encourages us to "buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). However, the nature of truth is such that it must be embraced and applied in order to profit its owner. Knowing something is of no value if it is not used and used properly. If a person chooses to ignore factual truth and replace it with substitutes, rationalizations, or excuses, these delusional fancies may provide temporary comfort for the ignorant or rebellious soul but they will ultimately lead to condemnation and death (Romans 1:28ff). Ironic, is it not? The same truth that saves those who love the truth (1 Peter 1:22) damns those who do not (2 Thessalonians 2:10)!

We are told not to call anyone a fool (Matthew 5:22) but that, by no means, implies that fools do not exist and cannot be identified. The Bible provides us with ample examples of what constitutes a fool; "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psalm 14:1; comp. Psalm 53:1; Proverbs 10:18; 12:15; 14:16; 18:2; Luke 12:20; 1 Corinthians 15:36; et al.). Therefore, when we rightly and biblically identify what God calls a fool (and we must if we "judge righteous judgment," John 7:24), we can know who is and who is not a fool. And, righteous judgment in this regard should not expect the fool to be receptive, compliant or agreeable to this observation. So, "Pilate marveled" and the Jews cried "Crucify Him." They were not interested in the truth. Pilate was concerned about Jewish rebellion and calming the crowd, a compromiser with no spine for the burden of truth (Matthew 27:24). The Jews were worried about maintaining their position and nursing their bruised ego (John 11:50). Like the kangaroo court of the Jewish leaders, to offer Pilate a reasoned defense was a waste of time.

No matter how simple the truth, no matter how easy the answer, no matter how sincere the fool may appear to be, "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him" (Proverbs 26:4).

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130