

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **The Fool**

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." – Abraham Lincoln

"Talk sense to a fool and he calls you foolish." – Euripides

"Any man is liable to err, only a fool persists in error." – Marcus Tullius Cicero

"The fool wonders, the wise man asks." – Benjamin Disraeli

"Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak and to speak well are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks." – Heinrich Heine

Hooray! (said facetiously) It is Happy Atheist Day! To most Americans it is April Fool's Day. But doesn't the Psalmist say, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'..." (Psa. 14:1).

Most of the uses of the word "fool" in Scripture can be attributed to the writings of Solomon in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. For example, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise. A fool's wrath is known at once, but a prudent man covers shame" (Psa. 12:15-16). "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; the words of his mouth begin with foolishness, and the end of his talk is raving madness" (Eccl. 10:12-13).

With the modern obsession with being politically correct, to label someone a fool would be considered harsh and abrasive. So it is best to let God be the one to call someone a fool.

God applies the word *fool* in a number of contexts; seduction (Prov. 7:22), in failing to listen (Prov. 10:8), slander (Prov. 10:18), evil (Prov. 10:23; 14:6), a lack of wisdom (Prov. 11:29; 17:16), pride (Prov. 14:3), a failure to heed instruction (Prov. 15:5), in speech (Prov. 14:3; 15:7; 17:7), in the need for correction (Prov. 17:10), etc.

The saddest aspect to a fool appears to be his refusal to listen. Many a fool will stand before God in the Judgment unprepared because they would not listen to reason (cf. Amos 4:12).

In regard to believing and accepting what the Scripture says of God's existence, it is not as though God has left them without evidence. "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

So many modern "experts" have reasoned God right out of existence. What really is upsetting, is the multitude of people who accept their words as truth. "...if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch" (Matt. 15:14).