

Total Depravity  
 Psalm 14 and 53  
 The Laurel Center  
 July 17, 2015

**Main Idea:** The wicked ignored God right now but will pay in the end.

Introduction

An overwhelming amount of people today believe that to get to heaven they must be morally good or of some benefit to their fellow humans. Often times they think that they are good especially in comparison to other human beings around them. We measure goodness based on comparison rather than an objective standard. It is common to think that there is a foundation of goodness within each human being. But the song that we are going to look at today says otherwise.

The Psalm is repeated twice in the Psalter. There are some subtle differences between the two. Psalm 14 uses “the Lord” in reference to God while Psalm 53 uses “God.” Beyond this there are differences before the last verse. But these two Psalms show us that goodness is not a foundational trait in humanity. Goodness is taught to us and brought to us by salvation from God. Let’s take a closer look at these two Psalms.

Psalm 14:1 –7	Psalm 53:1–6
<p><b>1</b> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, <b>they do</b> abominable deeds, there is none who does good.</p> <p><b>2</b> <b>The LORD</b> looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.</p> <p><b>3</b> They have all <b>turned aside</b>; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.</p> <p><b>4</b> Have <b>they</b> no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon <b>the LORD</b>?</p> <p><b>5</b> There they are in great terror, <b>for God is with the generation of the righteous.</b></p> <p><b>6</b> You would <b>shame</b> the plans of the poor, but <b>the LORD</b> is his refuge.</p> <p><b>7</b> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When <b>the LORD</b> restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be</p>	<p><b>1</b> The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, <b>doing</b> abominable iniquity; there is none who does good.</p> <p><b>2</b> <b>God</b> looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.</p> <p><b>3</b> They have all <b>fallen away</b>; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.</p> <p><b>4</b> Have those <b>who work evil</b> no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon <b>God</b>?</p> <p><b>5</b> There they are, in great terror, <b>where there is no terror!</b> For <b>God</b> scatters the bones of him who encamps against you; you put them to <b>shame</b>, for <b>God</b> has rejected them.</p> <p><b>6</b> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When <b>God</b> restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.</p>

glad.	
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**I.** The wicked enjoy favorite for now (Vs. 1 – 4).

A The wicked neglect God's existence.

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B The wicked prey on God's people.

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**II.** God's people will be victorious in the end (Psalm 14:5 – 7; 53:5 – 6).

A The wicked are in terror of judgment.

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B The righteous are vindicated by God.

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### Conclusion

After looking at Psalms 14 and 53 we learn that humanity is not naturally good. Goodness is taught to us by Jesus after he saves us from sin. He is the one who instills goodness in us through example and growing in him. Only through imitating Christ can we be morally good. To get to heaven, we must not be good but accept Christ as our sacrifice. Only through accepting Christ and growing in his example and being given his righteousness can we enter heaven. We learn from the Master. Jesus alone makes us worthy of heaven. Without him as your personal Lord and Savior heaven's gates are closed to you.