"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"FOOLS AND FOOLISHNESS"

Scripture: *"The fool says in his heart, there is no God'"* Psalm 14:1

The Bible teaches us many important truths about fools and foolishness. Every Christian must ask God for faith to cope with fools and foolishness, for there is no question that from time to time, we will encounter both. During this pandemic season, we see the actions of many fools and much foolishness. As Christians, we do not want to be a fool nor should we desire to be involved in foolishness. It is true that we tend to be impatient with people who are annoying, ignorant, or bothersome. However, in First Corinthians 1:18-27, Paul uses the term *"foolishness"* to explain how unsaved people view the preaching of the gospel. *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God."* (I Corinthians 1:18). In Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Paul discusses the dangers of false apostles and uses the terms *"foolishness"* and *"fools"* as both positive and negative concepts. *"I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, put up with me."* (2 Corinthians 11:1) *"I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But, if you do, then tolerate me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting."* (2 Corinthians 11:16)

I know I have done some foolish things in my life, and I believe that very few people would deny that they have been foolish at times. In unjustly pursuing David, King Saul admitted: *"...Behold, I have played the fool and have erred exceedingly."* (I Samuel 26:21 KJV) While King David, the man whom God called a man after His own heart, had his own issues, he sets a wonderful example for us. Then David said to God, *"I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."* (I Chronicles 21:8) David was given wise counsel beforehand not to take a census of the Israelites against God's plan, but he did not listen. Note that fools will not listen to wise counsel. However, David demonstrates the appropriate attitude to have when we recognize that we have done something foolish. First, David confessed that the right name for the foolish thing he did was called "sin." It is not easy to admit when we have sinned, but it frees us from guilt and restores a right relationship with God when we do. Next, he then begged God to forgive him. Read this chapter for the interesting details, but David had to suffer the consequences of his action by choosing among three choices God gave him. *"David said to Gad, I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the LORD, for His mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into human hands* ."* (I Chronicles 21: 13)

To avoid foolishness and being a fool, we need God's wisdom. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him [or her] ask of God, who giveth it liberally and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him [or her]."* (James 1:5) And, always remember Psalm 111:10: *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise."* May we ever look to the one who is able to forgive us when we act like a fool or do foolish things, and thank God for His patience with us, even in our foolishness. *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men [and women] everywhere to repent. "(*Acts 17:30 KJV) Thank you for winking, God.

Prayer

Dear All Wise God,
Truly, you are worthy of praise and honor because of your great mercy and love. We ask you for wisdom to deal with all of life's challenges. Thank you for freely giving us your Godly counsel. May our light shine before others so that you will be glorified. Our heart's desire is that people everywhere would be saved. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?

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