

- 2 *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*
- 3 *They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (Psalm 14:2-3)*

We rarely, if ever, are conscious of it, but we are subjects of meticulous inspection. The Inspector is none less than God Himself. He is the true judge and will surely make an accurate evaluation.

God's is a benevolent search. He desires to find understanding, godliness and good among men. His conclusion is shocking. He finds none!! Surely we would like to protest this. We think we know of someone, if not ourselves, who is a good and godly man. But do we think that God in the heavens can see less than we on earth can see? Can He, Who searches the hearts, miss what we, who can only see the outside and guess at the inside, see? Assuredly not! Then perhaps, it was just the time when God looked down. Some time in the past there were no good men on earth as there are now. Could that be the case? Not at all. For God sees with an eternal eye: He, in one glance, sees all who ever will live and knows their hearts and intents. When He looked down, He saw all the mothers and fathers, the statesmen, the prophets and priests, the humanitarians and philosophers. And He pronounced them all *filthy* (the marginal reading is *stinking*)! A good man? No! Not one!

This is one of the most difficult truths that men face, the fact that none are good but God. Men are all depraved, and in their natural unregenerate state, care nothing for God. As the first verse of this Psalm states, they are fools; they do not understand their wicked state, and therefore do not seek God.

There are, however, men who do seek God. But these are those who have first been sought and found by God. They have been enlightened and regenerated. They know their sinful state, and the awful consequence of rebellion against a sovereign God Who will punish all evil. Understanding their desperate need of God, they seek Him. And all who do so seek Him, find Him. And all who find Him, find Him gracious, merciful, willing to put away their sins for Christ's sake, and able to save them to the uttermost.

-C.M.