

*God looks down from heaven
on the sons of men*

Recommended Approach

- Prior to our meeting in class, **read Psalm 53 each day** of the week leading up to our meeting. You certainly may do so with your own Bible or use the translation of Psalm 53 provided on the final page of this packet.
- Prior to our meeting, complete the tasks provided on the following pages.
- Bring this study guide along with you to our class meeting.
- Note: you need not to have completed this guide prior to our meeting in order to function well at our class meeting. Do join us whether you were able to spend time with this study guide or not.

Task #1 - "Create / Supply a Theme"

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... write out a proposed theme for this psalm.

Task #2 - "Not Fooling Me"

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... LIST BELOW three features of the fool(ish) that you would hope to avoid in your life under God.
- You are also free to jot a few words or sentences of rationale for each selection.

1 -

2 -

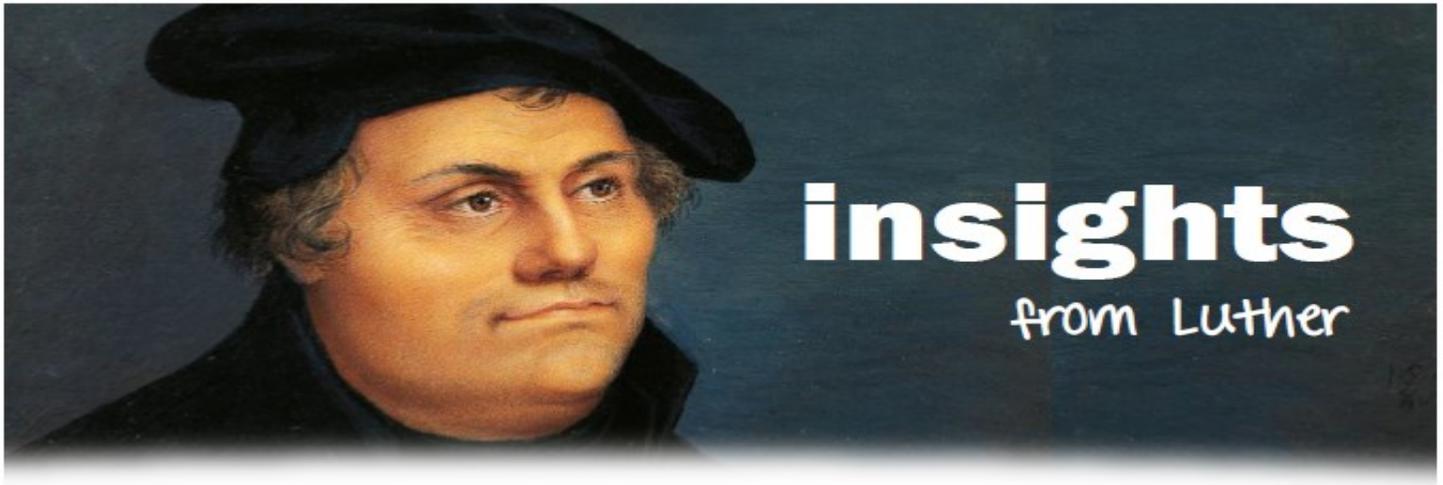
3 -

Task #3 - "Select a Memory Verse"

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... select a verse you'd be most likely to commit to memory. (Write out the verse below)
- You are also free to jot a few words or sentences to provide your rationale for the selection.

Task #4 - "Take it to the LORD in prayer"

- After reading and meditating on the words of this Psalm ... answer the question: "What Prayer does this Psalm lead you to make?"
- You can answer by composing your prayer below or simply listing some of the "raw concepts / ideas" you'd likely include in a prayer (but aren't currently ready to provide the polish).



Read and evaluate the following excerpts from “Reading the Psalms with Luther” ... feel free to jot down any thoughts you have in reaction to Martin Luther’s insights.

Comments: The 53rd psalm is a psalm of instruction and a prophecy, much like the 14th psalm. Both have nearly the same verses and words. In brief, both of them rebuke the faithless work-saints, who persecute the true doctrine and the true teachers. At the end, it proclaims the Gospel and kingdom of Christ, who shall come out of Zion.

Prayer: Lord, our Savior, fortify our hearts with the faith of Your Word against the foul contamination of the infidelity of these last days, when folly is called science, and is lauded to the skies. Cause us to grow in faith, that our hearts may be rooted and grounded in the saving truth of Your Word, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Psalm 53

For the choir director.
According to mahalath.
A maskil by David.

A Description of the Fool

- 2 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, and they abominably commit evil.
There is no one who does good.
- 3 God looks down from heaven on the sons of man
to see if there is any who understands, who seeks God.
- 4 Every one has turned back,
together they have become rotten;
there is no one who does good,
there is not even one.

The Final Fate of the Fool

- 5 Do they not know, [] those doing evil,
eating my people [as] they eat bread?
They do not call on God?
- 6 There they fear greatly,
where there was nothing to fear.
For God scattered the bones of those who encamped against you;
you put them to shame, for God despised them.

Closing Prayer

- 7 Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

Psalm 53 - Classroom Lecture / Discussions

When we meet for our group study of Psalm 53, the next pages are available for note-taking etc.



