

Book 1 – Chapter 4: The Knowledge of God Stifled or Corrupted, Ignorantly or Maliciously

4.1. What does it mean for a man to fall into superstition? Who are the superstitious worshipping?

4.2. Psalm 14:1, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.” Calvin said this is “...primarily applied to those who...stifle the light of nature, and intentionally stupefy themselves...they become hardened in a daring course of sin, madly banishing all remembrance of God...(p. 13)”

a. How does this type of sinner think of God’s activity in heaven?

b. How does this type of sinner rob God of his glory?

c. How does God judge the fool?

4.3. Is zeal for religion adequate? Why or why not?

a. What must true religion be conformable to? Where do we find this standard?

b. “Those, therefore, who set up a fictitious worship, merely worship and adore their own delirious fancies; indeed, they would never dare so to trifle with God, had they not previously fashioned him after their own childish conceits (p. 13).”

c. See Westminster Larger Catechism 109

d. Can a religion be genuine if it is not in accordance with truth? Why or why not?

4.4. What is it like for the wicked when they come into the presence of God?

a. “Perceiving that they are always within reach of his power, that resistance and evasion are alike impossible, they fear and tremble (p. 14).” Rather than this fear and trembling of judgment bringing repentance, what do they do instead?

b. How do the wicked try to appease God and procure his favor?