

### A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. As we prepare to pray, let's remember to praise God for all his goodness in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### CMP 69

Change my heart, O God,  
make it ever true;  
change my heart, O God,  
may I be like You.

*You are the potter,  
I am the clay;  
mould me and make me,  
this is what I pray.*

#### A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE – Psalm 14

<sup>1</sup> The fool says in his heart, **"There is no God."** They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

<sup>3</sup> All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

<sup>4</sup> Do all these evildoers know nothing? They devour my people as though eating bread; they never call on the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> But there they are, overwhelmed with dread, for God is present in the company of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

<sup>7</sup> Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores his people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

**Psalm 14** is a wisdom psalm attributed to David. It speaks of the foolishness of living as if God did not exist.

**Verse 1** **'The fool says in his heart,...'** The opening line of this Psalm summarizes Scripture's assessment of those who reject God. The term used here for a **"fool"** implies a stubborn, irrational form of wilful ignorance. The problem with such persons is not poor intellect, or lack of evidence, but a choice in their will,... in the heart,... to live as if God does not exist.

**Verses 4-6** **'Do all these evil doers know nothing?'** David is confident that those who refuse to acknowledge God will face judgment. Though evil people often persecute others, believers can take comfort knowing that God will make all things right. God remains a safe place, like a shelter, for those who believe in Him.

**Verse 7** – **'Oh that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!'**, The psalm ends with a hopeful look forward, to when Jesus comes back to establish His earthly kingdom. This total victory is part of many Old Testament prophecies (**Isaiah 9:6-7**). With this final triumph over sin, all of God's people will have reason to celebrate.

**Prayer** - Almighty God, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. **AMEN**

## **Prayer of Intercession**

**Let us pray.**

Almighty God, our hearts long for you, our spirits yearn for you, we desire to know your presence, we seek your face. Open our eyes to behold your coming, cleanse our minds to accept your presence, touch our hearts to accept your love, that we may give ourselves in love to you as you give yourself to us, through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

We pray for all whose lives are absorbed and caught up in wrong motives and beliefs, for all who are possessed by possessions, for all who have become addicted, for all who are caught up in crime, for all who are lost and seeking the truth.

Almighty God, protect us **and deliver us from all evil.**

We pray for our young generation, who don't know you and are being led astray. We pray for those who have a low esteem of themselves, and those who are devalued by others.

Almighty God, protect us **and deliver us from all evil.**

We pray and give thanks for all who have encouraged us and given us confidence and belief. For all who have helped us to develop our talents and abilities. We pray for teachers and all who are involved in the development of people.

Almighty God, protect us **and deliver us from all evil.**

We pray and ask you to bless our homes and our loved ones, especially where there is discord and stress, help us to be gracious loving and kind to our families, that Christ Jesus would unite us together in love.

Almighty God, protect us **and deliver us from all evil.**

Finally,...take time out to pray for those on your hearts, for those close to us, for families, friends or neighbours, for those who are known to us who are going through a difficult time. For those who have lost a loved one. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill at home or in hospital. Lord, comfort those in need we pray.

## **Pray the LORD'S Prayer**

### **Peace**

*Our God is a very present help in trouble,  
he will guide us into the ways of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

### **A prayer of blessing**

*The almighty God protect you from all evil.  
The loving God give you his peace.  
The gracious God guide you in your travels.*

**AMEN**