

# ***“A Preponderance of Providential PROGRESS”***

April 22, 2012

What was the last “sure thing” convinced you “couldn’t lose?”

**Blasé Pascal’s “GREAT WAGER”** – reason says that if you have everything to gain and nothing to lose by truly placing your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior; while conversely, you have absolutely nothing to gain (but literally everything to lose in an eternally catastrophic sense) but rejecting Jesus as Lord, than only a fool would bet on the nothingness of intellectual ignorance & spiritual blindness...

**Jim Elliot:** “He is no fool who gives away what he cannot keep... to gain what he cannot lose.”

**Biblical Truth and its unstoppable PROGRESS...**  
is given to embolden the believer, rescue the deceived,  
expose the wolves, and flush out the fools!

NOAH... boat building in the desert  
ABE... walk in the wilderness  
JOSEPH... in a pit & prison...  
MOSES... against Pharaoh & the Red Sea...  
JOSHUA... against the walls of Jericho  
DANIEL... in a lion’s den...  
3 BOYS... in the firey furnace...  
DAVID... up against a Giant & a King...

**JESUS!**

**VIDEO: God’s SOVEREIGNTY (Duncan)**

T/S: Today's text: ***"A Preponderance of Providential  
PROGRESS"***

1. God wants you to know that His SOVEREIGNTY is a SURE THING!
2. Heaven will NOT be home to ANY half-hearted hopefuls...
3. You MUST choose (by GRACE) to go ALL-IN... or go to hell.

**2 Samuel 1-4:**

1. David learns/mourns Saul & Jonathan's deaths
2. David made king over Judah & Ishboeth made king over Israel & Civil War
3. Abner joins David... Abner is killed... David mourns Abner's death/reveals heart
4. Ishboeth murdered from within... sets the stage for David's unifying kingship

**1 Chronicles 1-5:** Genealogy from Adam to David... Connecting dots of God's "people plan"

**Psalms: 6,9,10,14,16,21,36,39,43-44,49,77,78,84,85,87**

- 6 = **Prayer for mercy** in times of trouble
- 9 = **Praise for protection & thanksgiving** for God's **justice**
- 10 = **Prayer for relief from** and overthrow of the **wicked**
- 14 = **Lament:** "The **fool** has said in his heart, "There is no God..."
- 16 = **Praise in the plan, portion, & eternal protection of God...** see vv.9-11
- 21 = **Praise for victory & deliverance**
- 36 = **A song that contrasts the wickedness of man and the goodness of God**
- 39 = The vanity & frailty of life... **man's need for deliverance**
- 43 = **Prayer for deliverance from ungodly people/attacks**
- 44 = **Crying out to God...** Praising past deliverance & lifting up present troubles
- 49 = The **folly of trusting in worldly positions** and wealth
- 77 = **Comfort in times of trouble**, remember God's loving & guiding hand prevails
- 78 = **God's goodness** thru-out history of His people, even amidst their sinful ways
- 84 = **Blessed are those who truly worship** the One true God!
- 85 = **Praise for God's mercies** - in the midst of His discipline
- 87 = **The gift & privilege** of being a "citizen in Zion" ("true Israel" or **true Church**)

God has a plan! Persuasive progress proves His plan.

What is *your part* in His plan? Are you sure?

*Psalm 16:9-11 = Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely... 10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. 11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever...*

***Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."***

**Progress is the fruit of Providence... and Providence is Sovereignty in action!**

Biblical Truth and its unstoppable PROGRESS... is given to embolden the believer, rescue the deceived, expose the wolves, and flush out the fools!

## **Video: Not a Fan or Fool #1 (Clarify)**

**Matthew 7:15** = "Beware the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

**Acts 20:29** = "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock..."

**Titus 1:10,11, & 16** =

*For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. **11** They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain... **16** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.*

**NOTE: Judas** ( a fool who developed into a wolf) was on the team... but was never adopted into the family (even tho he looked like family).

**Fools are spiritual adulterers...**

## **Video: "Not a Fan or Fool #2" (CHOOSE)**

**"Fool, Foolishness, Folly" are used approx. 360 times in the Bible!**

Sample word study:

1 Sam. 25:25 = **Nabal** is named for being a fool (**obstinate & irreverent**)

1 Sam. 26:21 = **Saul** is self professed fool (**deceitful & devilishly manipulative**)

**Proverbs 10:18** = "a fool spreads slander & conceals hatred with lying lips"

Proverbs 10:23 = “Doing wickedness is like a sport to a fool...”

**Proverbs 12:15** = “**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...** (vs. BIBLE)

**Proverbs 14:16** = “...a fool is arrogant and careless.” (...know better than God)

**Proverbs 15:5** = “a fool rejects... discipline...”

**Proverbs 17:12** = “**Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.**”

**Proverbs 17:28** = **Silent fools can appear to be wise**

**Proverbs 18:2** = “**A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.**”

**Proverbs 23:9** = “...a fool will despise the wisdom of your words.”

**Proverbs 26:10** = **Hiring a fool hurts everyone around the team**

**Proverbs 26:11** = “Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who repeats folly”

**Proverbs 27:3** = A provocation with a fool can be extremely weighty/troublesome

**Proverbs 27:22** = “Though you pound a fool in a mortar...,yet his foolishness will not depart from him.” (**fools are stubborn & obstinate**)

**Proverbs 28:26** = “**He who trusts in his own heart is a fool...**”

## **Video: “Not a Fan or Fool #3” (COST)**

**Ecc. 2:14** = “...a fool walks in darkness...”

**Isaiah 32:6** = “...a fool speaks nonsense, and his heart inclines toward wickedness: to practice ungodliness and to speak error against the Lord...”

**Matthew 5:22** = Jesus warns against calling someone a “fool” out of anger/spite... (not the same as explaining/illuminating the reality & danger of fools... (see Luke 12:20 & 1 Cor. 15:36)

**Luke 12:20** = *"But God said to him, 'You fool!' This very night your soul is required of you..."*

**1 Cor. 15:36** = **(Paul speaking)** *"You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies..."*

**SHEEP vs. FOOLS:** Sheep are dumb, deceived, & go astray... (need/want Shepherd)

The people were/are **"like sheep without a Shepherd"** =

**Numbers 27:17**

**1 Kings 22:17**

**2 Chronicles 18:16**

**Matthew 9:36**

**Mark 6:34**

"He led His people like sheep... in a flock" = **Psalm 78:52**

"I will assemble the remnant together... like sheep in the fold... like a flock..."  
- **Micah 2:12**

"All of us like sheep have gone astray (wandered off), each of us has turned to his own way"  
- **Isaiah 53:6**

"For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." - **1 Peter**

**2:25**

**SHEEP** = **Lost to the wolves**  
**WOLVES** = **Lie to hurt...**  
**FOOLS** = **Like & listen to the wolves**

**7 Letters to 7 Churches** (Revelation 2-3)

## Reformation revisited

Modern “prodigal dad” quote (referencing his daughter’s demise): “We made he tragic mistake of **raising our daughter in the church... BUT, we did not raise her in-Christ.**”

CLOSE:

**Psalm 78 = remind God’s goodness & promise keeping... up to David’s reign**

Don’t be a “foolish fan”

Let us grow in the grace as “faithful followers”

Discipled Warriors walking in Worship!