

**“APRIL FOOLS’ DAY”**  
**APRIL 2008**

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is just around the corner. Make sure that you mark this date on your calendar and that you are especially vigilant when it arrives. On that date, be skeptical of what others tell you. Don’t take things at face value. Why the caution? Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> is April Fools’ Day.

One of the best April Fools’ jokes that I heard was a radio program about exploding maple trees in New England. With a very serious voice, the announcer interviewed people who were concerned about this danger to public health. It seems that fewer maple trees were being tapped for syrup and that caused a dangerous buildup of pressure in many trees. The resulting explosions had even killed people who were innocently walking in the New England forests.

As I listened to this story on my car radio, I wondered why I had never before heard of exploding maple trees. Was this a recent phenomenon? As I was trying to sort this out in my mind, the radio announcer paused and then wished his listeners a very happy April Fools’ Day. I had been taken in by this bogus story. I felt both foolish and gullible at the same time.

All of us have had similar experiences on April Fools’ Day. Some we would rather not share. Fortunately, most of these jokes are done in the spirit of good-hearted fun. While we might feel foolish, it is good medicine to laugh at ourselves every once in awhile.

There is a verse in the Bible that is appropriate for Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to propose that these words of wisdom be read,

*The fool says in his heart,  
“There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1)*

These words of David are so important that they are repeated word-for-word in Psalm 53:1. It is clear that he does not want us to miss the point. It is the height of foolishness to deny the existence of God. Only fools would try to live as if God was a myth.

April Fools’ Day is coming. Be prepared for practical jokes and bogus radio programs. During this annual day of wackiness, take a moment to remember the words of Psalm 14:1. It’s important to remember God’s definition of who is foolish.

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