

It has been said that there are two constants in life, death and taxes. But I would like to propose a third -- The back-to-school cold. It never seems to fail. Throughout the rest of the year, I am a fairly healthy person. I take my multivitamin. I eat healthy (somewhat). I wash my hands and use hand sanitizer. I try to get enough sleep. But despite my best efforts, a massive head cold generally seems to find me this time of the year. (sniff, sniff, SNIFF, blow) Yup, that has been my story for the last couple days. And so, I am drugged up with elderberry, cold medicine, zinc and an essential oils diffuser going in our living room (apparently that helps). Yes, death, taxes and back-to-school colds are the three constants of life (at least in my little world). But there is more...

1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is NONE who does good.

2 God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

3 They have ALL fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is NONE who does good, not even one.

[Psalm 53:1-3]

There is so much more. Yes, the fourth constant is the fact that ***none does good*** and ***all have fallen away***. In short, people do bad things and say bad things, all the time. People have a propensity for sin; to find pleasure outside of God. People define, determine, distribute and defend their own truth. And thus, ***God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God***. And it does not take long to see there is none. There you go, the pastor being a killjoy on your day. But as the psalmist in Psalm 53 does not end by being a killjoy, neither will I.

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

And God has restored our fortunes. He has done so through Jesus Christ. Without Jesus, me being a killjoy will be the least of your worries. But with Jesus, joy will never be killed but rather will be eternal. The Good News is that salvation does not come from you, because of the above stated fourth constant. Salvation comes from God, and his name is Jesus. Let us rejoice and be glad. In Jesus' name, Amen.