

Psalm 36

This is a Psalm of powerful contrasts, a glimpse of human wickedness at its worst and divine goodness in its many-sided fullness.

Psalms 36:1-4 [New King James] *“An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. For he flatters himself in his own eyes, when he finds out his iniquity and when he hates. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. He devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil.”*

Because the wicked have no fear of the Creator God, nothing restrains them from sinning, they plunge ahead as if nothing will ever happen to them.

But the Creator God is just and is only delaying their correction.

We all should let the fear of the Creator God do its work in holding us back from sinning, in our prayers of gratitude to the Creator God do **not** forget His love and justice.

Psalms 36:5-7 [New King James] *“Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.”*

In total contrast to evil people and their wicked plots that end in failure, God is faithful, righteous and just without limits, as these verses are seeking to express.

Human expressions of *“His judgements”* are shallow in comparison to what has just been expressed, for they are based on a term referring to court decisions and therefore come to mean judgements only in both senses of the word.

But in God’s Word judgements are God’s will being revealed to us, [**Psalms 18:22; Psalms 19:7-10**].

The use of the word *“precious”* in **verse 7** of **Psalm 36** must not be overlooked, for it shows an aspect of our salvation which is as humbling as it is reassuring.

Psalms 36:8 [New King James] *“They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.”*

David’s poignant experiences as a refugee from the wrath of Saul illuminate this picture of sharing the wealth of a great house.

Psalms 36:9 [New King James] *“For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.”*

This vivid image, “fountain of life,” gives us a sense of fresh, cleansing water that gives life to spiritual as well as human thirst.

Jeremiah 2:13 [New King James] *“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”*

The same picture is given by Jeremiah of a people who had turned their back on God being called to His fountain of living water, instead of their own cistern that can lose their water.

John 4:14 [New King James] *“but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

Jesus Christ spoke of Himself being as living water that could quench our thirst forever and give us eternal life, also light.

“In your light we see light” – this is referring directly to Jesus Christ and His first coming, [**John 1:1-5; John 8:12**].

John 3:20-21 [New King James] *“For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

We are to come to this light, Jesus Christ, that we can clearly see our sins and confessing them, repenting of them and receive the cleansing power of Jesus Christ’s blood sacrifice.

The Psalm ends with a cry for help from a loving Creator God.

Psalms 36:10-12 [New King James] *“Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked drive me away. There the workers of iniquity have fallen; they have been cast down and are not able to rise.”*

The knowledge we have received when “in the light” has shown us the end of all the unrepentant wicked, so we cry out to the Creator God who is the only One who can save us from such an end.

King David will be in a completely different future world, the Kingdom of God, [**Ezekiel 37:21-24; Revelation 20:4, 11-13**].

We also can be part of that world tomorrow when the Kingdom of God comes in its fullness to earth at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Use what we have just learnt to prepare for that glorious future.