

Psalm 36

- Great introduction: A Psalm of David, “The servant of the Lord.” - I want that to be true of me, of all of us.
- David considers the evil that is in the world; then he considers his God who is greater than all the evil, and prays for God’s protection from that evil.

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

V: 1 As it reads in the KJV and most translations, this is a difficult verse and there is probably a translational issue here. The passage should probably read:

“The transgression of the wicked saith within “his” heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.”

- The wicked say in their heart that there is no reason to fear God, they’re not accountable, they’re going to get away with it.
- When people don’t fear God, they’re thinking because they don’t believe they will not be held accountable for their actions.
- That’s one of the reasons that we’re encouraged to fear God, because the fear of the Lord will keep us on track, keep us away from sin, for fear of both the repercussions and the judgment to follow.
- How can evil people do the things that they do?

Romans 3:18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

V: 2 Still speaking of the wicked, he flatters himself, compliments himself, builds himself up, deceives himself.

- We tend to deceive ourselves at times, or perhaps a lot...

Proverbs 28:26 “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”

- All of that of course until he is discovered.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh

reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 3-4 The wicked speak iniquity, dishonesty, they have turned away from wisdom and doing good, they think about evil and wicked things, they go in the wrong direction in life, they don't abhor evil, they embrace it.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil:..”

Proverbs 3:7 “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

- When people lose the fear of the Lord, they begin to lose everything else that is important to good character and conduct.
- Out of that sinful heart come sinful words and sinful deeds:

Matthew 12:34-35 “³⁴O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. ³⁵A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”

V: 5-7 Contrast; moving from the wicked now to the Lord - the opposite of wickedness.

- God's mercy reaches to the heavens, and his faithfulness reaches to the sky.
(They should make a song out of this...)
- His righteousness is like a great mountain and his judgments are a great deep, like a deep lake, there's a lot of it. He is filled with lovingkindness
- The contrast is stark, and because God is all these things, because He is merciful, and faithful, because He is righteous, and of deep judgment, and full of loving kindness it is reasonable for men to put their trust in Him, it's reasonable for us to put our trust in Him and to rest under the shadow of His wings.

Psalm 91:1-2 “¹He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”

V: 8-9 Those that do put their trust in the Lord, who rest under the shadow of His wings are abundantly satisfied, they shall drink of the river of his pleasures.

Psalm 16:11 “Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

Psalm 23:1-2 “¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

- With him, He is the fountain of life:

John 10:10 "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

"9b ... in Thy light shall we see light."

- If He doesn't light the way for us, we will never see the light, we'll always be in darkness.

Jesus declared:

John 8:12 "... I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

V: 10-12 Prayer, petition: Lord just continue in your loving kindness, to those who know you and love you, protect them / us - don't let the hand of the wicked, or their foot for that matter harm me.

Jeremiah 31:3 "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

- The workers of iniquity are fallen, they are cast down, and shall not rise.
- Cast down to where do you suppose? H-e double hockey sticks!

Psalm 37

V: 1-2 "*Fret not thyself...*" "Don't become angry or frustrated..." - because of evil doers, workers of iniquity.

- Boy if that isn't a word for each of us today, then I don't know what is!
- Don't get all wound up. Why though? V:2
- They will soon be cut off, cut down to size, God is going to deal with them.

Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

In another Psalm, by Asaph, the chief musician, we read:

Psalm 73:3 "I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."

- The psalmist goes on to describe how they aren't in trouble like the believers are, and that they prosper in different ways, it was all a painful thought (he was fretting...)

Psalm 73:17-19 “¹⁷Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. ¹⁸Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. ¹⁹How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.”

V: 3-7 Exhortation: ³**Trust** in the Lord, ⁴**Delight** in the Lord, ⁵**Commit** your way unto the Lord, ⁷**Rest** in the Lord, and **Wait** on Him.

V: 3 Trust in the Lord, do good (cause) - (effect) and you will be blessed, you'll dwell in the land and you will be fed.

- Trust in the Lord, put your faith in Him, receive His grace - which leads to the ultimate blessing which is salvation.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

V: 4 “*Delight thyself also in the Lord...*” To take pleasure in the Lord

Romans 7:22 “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.”

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- As we delight in the Lord, as we take pleasure in Him - as He becomes our focus, then the result is that He becomes the desire of our heart so when He gives us the desires of our heart He is giving of Himself to us!

This falls in line with what Jesus said about priorities:

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

David took his own counsel and encouragement:

Psalm 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

V: 5-6 Commit - make a decision, prioritizing something to make sure it gets done, committing to trust the Lord fully and to do those things that please Him.

Joshua 24:15 “... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- We're committed to paying our bills on time, or we're committed to taking our kids to school - these are responsible commitments, committed to getting to work on time.
- These are good and responsible commitments; but often times believers, people who call themselves Christians are committed to other things more than they are to the Lord, they really aren't actually all that committed to the Lord.

"... **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**" That's a commitment, but what does it look like?

- As for me and my house, we will attend church regularly.
- As for me and my house, we will get involved and serve the Lord, through the body of Christ.
- As for me and my house, we will tithe regularly.
- These are all commitments, decisions to do something, making them a priority.
- Modern Christianity has become very casual about their faith, a sort of "religious relativism" without a real sense of commitment, or spiritual discipline.
- David exhorts us, be committed!
- As we commit our ways to Him, He will take over and bring to pass those things He desires of us and in us.

V: 7 Rest in the Lord, wait on Him. This is another expression or exhortation to have faith, to trust the Lord, to rest and be at peace knowing that He will deal with whatever situation is at hand.

- The word "rest" means to be quiet and to be still...

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

"... *fret not thyself*..."

- "Don't become angry or frustrated..." - because of wicked men. Why do you suppose this is repeated from verse 1?

V: 8-10 "*Cease from anger*..." When you're walking in righteousness there are just some things that will anger us - like iniquity, and lies - especially those that are spoken in public with no seeming repercussion or even acknowledgment, they're just accepted that's why we're told a 3rd time to "*fret not*..."

James 1:19 "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

- Again, God will deal with the evil doers, they will get theirs in the end.

Revelation 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as His work shall be.”

V: 11 While the wicked will be cut off - the meek shall inherit the earth, they shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace - which is a result of their right relationship with the True and Living God.

Matthew 5:5, 9 “⁵Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” “⁹Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

V: 12-15 The wicked plot against the righteous, they gnash at them, but God has it all in hand, He will deal with them.

- The wicked draw their swords, bend their bows - but they end up hurting themselves.

Psalms 9:16 “The Lord is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.”

V: 16-20 It's better to have a little with the Lord, than to have a lot without Him.

Mathew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

1 Timothy 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

- ¹⁸The reward for the upright, the righteous is that they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever meaning it's eternal, speaking of eternity with Him in Heaven.

V: 21-22 One characteristics of the wicked is that they borrow and don't pay back their debts.

- Usually when a person borrows money they make a promise to pay it back; but as they don't pay it back they are going back on their word, breaking their promise, basically they lied, they've turned away from the truth.

V: 23-24 The steps of a “*good man*”... what makes a good man? A man that is yielded to the will of God, walking with Him in submission to the will of God.

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

Jeremiah 10:23 “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”

- When the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, He, the Lord delights in His ways, because they are the Lord's ways!I want my ways to please the Lord, that He would delight in me!
- ²⁴Good men aren't perfect men, they have issues - But God!

Proverbs 24:16 “For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.”

V: 25-26 David has a lot of time and experience with the Lord, this is an encouraging statement - He has never seen the righteous forsaken, or begging for bread.

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation (manner of behavior) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

V: 27-28 Turn away from evil: We've been hearing a lot of that lately.

Proverbs 3:7 “Be not wise in thine own eyes, fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.”

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil.”

- Another contrast: The Lord loves judgment or justice and his saints will be preserved, but the wicked will be cut off.

V: 29-31 The righteous will be blessed, they speak about wisdom and justice, righteousness, the Law of the Lord is in his heart.

Psalms 119:11 “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

- So, what is in our mouths? What do we talk about? Is the Law of the Lord in our hearts?

Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

- Lord help us!

Psalms 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

V: 32-34 Even though the wicked watch and wait to trap and kill the righteous, the Lord will not leave the righteous in the hands of the wicked.

- Wait on the Lord until the wicked are cut off.

V: 35-36 The wicked at times have flourished and seemingly prospered - yet they are gone, no more.

- There have been many that have ruled in various ways, wielding great power, commanding great armies, enjoying incredible wealth - and yet they are gone, nowhere to be found.

V: 37 Mark the perfect man, watch that man carefully, observe what he does - look to him as a good or a positive role model.

- In some ways David was that kind of man, the Apostle Paul was as well - but Jesus is our ultimate role model.

1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

“... *for the end of that man is peace.*” (Shalom) Well being, rest, strength, life, and vitality.

V: 38 But the transgressors and the wicked shall be destroyed:

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death,...”

James 4:14 “... For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

- People who live for this life only are missing it all together. This life is nothing compared with eternity. And yet where we spend eternity is being determined by how we live this life. “*There is only one life, it will soon be past. And only what you do for Christ is going to last.*”

V: 39-40 “But...” the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord...

The rest of:

Romans 6:23b “...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The Lord will help them, and deliver them, and save them - because they trust in Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”