

Psalm 036 - The Problem of Evil; Praise of God's Character

Psalm 36

[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.]

An Oracle from the LORD

1 Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no **fear of God** before his eyes.

1 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.

1 An oracle that came to me about the transgressions of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes.

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

- "...fear of God" - *pachad*, dread, terror of judgment; Paul quotes this in Rom 3:18

2 For it flatters him in his *own* eyes Concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed *and* the hatred *of it*.

2 For it flatters him in his *own* eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity *and* the hatred *of it*.

2 He flatters himself too much to discover his transgression and hate it.

2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

3 The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

3 The words from his mouth are vain and deceptive. He has abandoned behaving wisely and doing good.

3 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

4 He plans wickedness on his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not reject evil.

4 He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil.

4 He devises iniquity on his bed and is determined to follow a path that is not good. He does not resist evil.

4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

Sinners are Self-destroyed

They are self-destroyers by being self-flatterers; Satan could not deceive them, if they did not deceive themselves. But will the cheat last always? No, the day is coming when the sinner will be undeceived, when his iniquity shall be found hateful.

— Matthew Henry

One of the things the lost will have to live with throughout eternity is the old nature that they are going to learn to hate.

The next five verses are a concise theology: David was a worshipper, not a philosopher. Mercy and faithfulness, righteousness and justice, are often joined (Cf. Rom 11:33).

Praise to the LORD

5 Your mercy, LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness *reaches* to the skies.

5 Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness *reaches* to the skies.

5 Your gracious love, LORD, reaches to the heavens; your truth extends to the skies.

5 Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.

6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are *like* the great deep. LORD, You protect mankind and animals.

6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are *like* a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your justice is like the great depths of the sea. You deliver both people and animals, LORD.

6 Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast.

7 How precious is Your mercy, God! And the sons of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

7 How precious is your gracious love, God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.

8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You allow them to drink *from* the river of Your **delights**.

8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.

8 They are refreshed from the abundance of your house; You cause them to drink from the river of your pleasures.

8 They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures.

- "...delights" - comes from the same Hebrew root as "Eden" in Gen 3

9 For the fountain of life is with You; In Your **light** we see **light**.

9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

9 For with you is a fountain of life, and in your light we will see light.

9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

- "...light" - the first use of light refers to light of God's Word or revelation

- "...light" - the second use refers to the understanding gained by one who looks at things from God's perspective

— This means that if anyone is to gain proper understanding of things in God's world then he must start with the light of God's Word (Cf. 119:30)

The Bible tells us that we come to know truth by God's gracious revelation of Himself. We can either respond to His Word by submitting in dependence upon it and thinking God's thoughts after Him, or by rebelling against His light and thinking our own thoughts. Therefore, since humanity is created as a *dependent* creature that is dependent upon God in many areas, so it is also true that we must start intellectually by submitting to God's Word—"in Thy light we see light." This is why God reveals

mysteries or secrets to mankind so that we can have some absolutes upon which to build our thinking.

10 Prolong Your mercy to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright of heart.

10 O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

10 Send forth your gracious love to those who know you, and your righteousness to those who are upright in heart.

10 O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

11 May the foot of pride not come upon me, And may the hand of the wicked not drive me away.

11 Let not the foot of pride come upon me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

11 Do not let the foot of the proud crush me; and do not let the hand of the wicked dissuade me.

11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me.

12 Those who do injustice have fallen there; They have been thrust down and cannot rise.

12 There the doers of iniquity have fallen; They have been thrust down and cannot rise.

12 There, those who do evil have fallen; They have been thrown down, and they cannot get up.

12 There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise.

- He took personal responsibility to obey God and to serve Him