



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

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## Psalm 36

The Wicked, The Upright and the Steadfast Love of God

David wrote Psalm 36 for the choir director so that it would be sung in the temple. He starts off this incredible Psalm by describing the lives of the ungodly. David tells us that sin is actually speaking to the sinner deep within their **heart**. Sin deceives, flatters, causes people to think irrationally, and convinces people that it will go unnoticed by God. There is no fear of God before their **eyes**. The ungodly soothes his own conscience concerning his sin, choosing to reject God. This is self-deception and lying to oneself. Verse 2 explains how a person in sin can actually look at their life and see no sin at all. In fact, often times people living in sin are so deceived that they think they are in the right. Where the heart is, you can be assured the **mouth** will be soon to follow (3)! He speaks wickedness and is deceitful in his speech. The **mind** of the ungodly plans and plots evil deeds. It's very possible that he has believed the lies of Satan and is so self deceived that while plotting wicked deeds he thinks they are actually good. He is laying in bed thinking how to sin. Where there is an evil heart there will be evil deeds.

Right in the middle of this Psalm David changes course. He fixes his attention on the character of God. What should I do with all this evil around me? What should I do as I continually witness sin from those that I go to school with, work with, and as I am even oppressed by the sinful actions of others? What should I do as I watch the news and hear the devastation of sin in our world and our country? David's answer: Set your eyes on the character of God. Get to know who He really is! Make a decision to worship Him and serve Him. Why?

**-Because the lovingkindness (loyal, steadfast, unfailing love) of almighty God extends to the heavens.** Is so big you can't get your arms around it, yet so personal that it can radically change your life.

**-Because His faithfulness reaches to the skies.** Unlike the ungodly, you can always trust His heart, His eyes, and His Word. He has been and always will be faithful.

**-Because His righteousness is like the mountains.** It stands firm and is unmoved. For the sinner this is daunting because on our own there is nothing we can do to attain His righteousness. We rejoice that though we did not deserve it, the righteousness of God is made available to us through Jesus Christ who paid the price for our sin on the cross. Because of His death and resurrection, anyone who places their faith in Jesus receives the righteousness of Christ, which makes the believing sinner acceptable to God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

**-Because His judgments (justice) are like a great deep.** We may not always understand them (Romans 11:33), but we can be assured that His judgements are and will be perfect.

Those that are His are able to partake at His table and receive an abundance. In Him is life and light (9). The believer, unlike the ungodly, feeds on the wonderful blessings we have as a child

of God. As we walk in His light we see clearly! We see things as they really are (our hearts, peoples actions and words, what's really happening in our world). Knowing the wonderful position the child of God is in David prays that God would continue blessing His people and that the pride of others (even his own pride) would not destroy him. David didn't want his enemies to come and defeat him and take over the land. As he looked forward by faith he saw the enemies of the Lord completely defeated.

As you seek to apply this Psalm to your life, ask yourself:

1. If this is who God really is, how should it impact the way we live?
2. What does your life say about what you believe about God?

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