

## The Wicked Man

Jesus in the Psalms

*Psalm 36*

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. Of Abimelechs and Persecutors

Psalm 36 addresses an important question: what gives rise to the type of man or woman who wants to destroy those who practice righteousness? How can we avoid becoming like them?

### II. The Wicked Man

#### A. The Character of the Wicked (1-4)

Why is it that the wicked behave the way they do and how can we avoid the path of the wicked? Verses 1-4 answer the first part of that question. David's answer? *There is no fear of God before his eyes.* The wicked have no sense of God's just wrath against wickedness.

How does David know that this is the case? Because their lives reveal it (vv. 2-4):

- **Conscience:**
- **Speech:**
- **Actions:**
- **Plans:**
- **Loves:**

#### B. The Character of God (5-9)

- Attributes
  - Mercy – *hesed*, covenant faithfulness
  - Faithfulness –
  - Righteousness –
- Actions
  - Judgments –
  - Preservation –

#### C. Petition and Meditation (10-12)

### III. Application

#### A. Your loves reveal your fears (Mt 10:26-31)

Your loves reveal your fears. The wicked man does not hate evil. If he truly hated it, then he would endure anything rather than practice it. Because he loves wickedness, what is David able to conclude about him? David is able to conclude that he doesn't fear God. The one who truly fears God abhors evil.

Here's the syllogism: If you fear God, then you will abhor evil. The wicked man does not abhor evil. Therefore, the wicked man does not fear God.

Why is it that a wicked man excuses his sin, hardens his conscience, speaks wickedness and lies, ceases to do good, plots evil, and does not abhor wickedness? It is because he does not fear God. He doesn't believe that he is going to be held accountable. The loves and hates of the wicked, therefore, reveal what he believes. His loves and hates are the fruit of his rejection of God. The root of his problem is that he does not fear God.

#### B. The key to overcoming wickedness is a big view of God

The key to overcoming sin and wickedness – in our own lives and in our culture – is found in expanding our view of God. The reason that our culture has descended into wickedness is because our view of man has become increasingly large and our view of God has become increasingly small.

David would look at this despair and declare to us: what did you expect? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. To reject the Lord at the outset, therefore; to declare that by unaided reason man can discover truth is to end in skepticism and despair.

As A.W. Tozer said, *"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."*

#### C. So pursue holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor 7:1)

*"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor 7:1).*

1. Meditate on God's greatness (5-9)
2. Pray for God's faithfulness (10-11)
3. Meditate on the destiny of the wicked (12)

### IV. Conclusion