

One Step Further

Week after week we hear sermons. But many times we do not take it *one step further* and really process and pray God's Word through. During this Psalm series there is an opportunity to take God's Word one step further in your life. We hope you will take this journey and encourage others to do the same.

Psalm 2 Sermon Summary:

Psalm 36 is a wonderful follow up to Psalm 1. It reinforces its themes of the righteous versus the wicked and the quality of their lives and their two different destinations. But it takes us to new territory. This psalm provides a powerful and relevant oracle of how we should think and respond to a large segment of the world that lives without any fear of God. Instead of being overwhelmed by wickedness (36:1-4), we can rejoice in God's perfect character (36:5-9). But we must remember to pray that we will not succumb to the sinfulness of the wicked, but be sustained by His love and righteousness (36:10-12). This summarizes the heart of Psalm 36.

Reflect

Prayerfully consider and process the following questions related to Psalm 36:

1. Do you fear the Lord (see Prov 3:7) or would you more accurately describe yourself as living with "no fear of God" in your thought and actions (36:1-4)? If the latter, what specifically in your life needs to change to move you to God?
2. We know what God thinks about the wicked generation, but does it still sadden our hearts like God's? David said, "*An oracle is within my heart concerning the wicked.*" He felt the sadness and indignation of God. Do we still react to sin like we should or have we become immune to it with its proliferation? Spend some time in prayer now asking the Lord

to re-sensitize your heart and mind concerning the blatant sinfulness of world.

Meditate

Read and reflect upon the awesomeness of God as revealed in Exodus 19. If the wicked referred to in Psalm 36:1-4 could be transported back to this theophany of God at Sinai, do you think they would acquire a fear for God? Perhaps even as Christians we need to keep the great and holy nature of our God ever before us. Spend some time reflecting on the awesome holiness of God as it will teach us to fear Him rightly.

Psalm 36:4 tell us about the wicked, that, "*Even on his bed he plots evil.*" Hopefully, you have not been plotting a way to carry out a sinful act. But if temptation is crouching at the door, why not turn your attention to God instead? David conversely says of God in Psalm 63:6, "*On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night.*" Praise the Lord for His various characteristics. Ask the Lord to, "*Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart.*" See how he will graciously change your nightly meditations.

Apply

What actions would God have you take based upon Psalm 36 this week?