

PSALM 36

This psalm may be divided into two parts. In the first four verses, the prophet declares his conviction that all wickedness proceeds from the absence of the fear of God. The exceeding deceitfulness of sin renders us blind to our own wickedness. In the second part, the Psalmist sets forth the boundless extent of God's mercy to those who love and fear him. And in the last verse, he prophesies the final overthrow of the wicked.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of YAHWEH.

- 1 Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God before his eyes.
- 2 For he flatters himself in his own eyes that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
- 3 The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit; he has ceased to act wisely and do good.
- 4 He plots trouble while on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good;
he does not reject evil.

- 5 Your steadfast love, O YAHWEH, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O YAHWEH.
- 7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.
- 10 Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!
- 11 Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.
- 12 There the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise.

PRAYER

O God, your mercy reaches to the heavens and your righteousness to the clouds. Teach us to abhor everything that is evil and to set ourselves with diligence and sincerity in every good way. Let our morning and evening thoughts be devoted to your service, and let the love and fear of your holy name bring us rivers of pleasure. You are the fountain of all wisdom, and know our needs before we ask. Have compassion on our infirmities, and grant us only those things worthy of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we plead. Amen.