

Evening Sermon Outline – September 29, 2019
“Comparing Man to God” Psalm 36

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David the Servant of the LORD.

- 1 An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: Psalm 36:1 A

How bad are they? How bad are we?

1. *Expose anyone to the Light of Christ, here is what he or she looks like –*

1. *No fear of God –*

¹ ... **There is no fear of God before his eyes. Psalm 36:1 B**

In Psalm 111:10 we read -

- ¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; ... Psalm 111:10**

Here we see that the opposite is also true, “no fear” of God is the beginning of wickedness!

2. *This “no fear of God” comes from no true knowledge of God and results in INSANE PRIDE –*

For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates. Psalm 36:2

Without knowledge of God there is no knowledge of self

Again, it is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself⁵ unless he has first looked upon God’s face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinize himself. For we always seem to ourselves righteous and upright and wise and holy—this pride is innate in all of us—unless by clear proofs we stand convinced of our own unrighteousness, foulness, folly, and impurity. Moreover, we are not thus convinced if we look merely to ourselves and not also to the Lord, who is the sole standard by which this judgment must be measured. John Calvin

When ungodly people evaluate themselves, they tend to compare themselves to others (other humans beings) as the standard, in two areas:

A. *The person who does not fear God has a distorted view of Sin – When he finds out his iniquity... Psalm 36:2*

Most people judge their own sin, how bad am I? In comparison to other sinners –

As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” Romans 3:10-12

Sadly, we compare ourselves badly -

If you died tonight, and God were to ask you “Why should I let you into My heaven?” What would you say?

“Well, I haven’t murdered anyone, I have never robbed a bank...”

B. *The person who does not fear God has a distorted view of Hate*

–

... and when he hates. Psalm 36:2

Meaning he is PROUD when he hates, Saul pre-Paul was such a man! Judging and hating are not exactly the same thing, however, the sinful kind of judging, which Jesus mentions in Matthew 7, not starting with YOUR OWN sin first, leads to hate -

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. Matthew 7:1-5*He who understands his own plank, will be much more compassionate as he deals with his brother’s speck! We are to hate SIN, but first that sin we find in ourselves!*

Additionally, if a person does not hate sin, but loves it, he will love it in others too and he will hate righteousness - For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous. 1 John 3:11-12

C. *The person who does not fear God, shows it with his words –*
The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; ... Psalm 36:3 A

D. *The person who does not fear God, is incapable of any good –*
... He has ceased to be wise and to do good. Psalm 36:3 B

Note he does not think it: or do it!

E. *The person who does not fear God, devises wickedness when*
he is at rest, relaxing –
He devises wickedness on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil. Psalm 36:4

“he does not only fall into sin (that may be the case of a good man), but he takes or chooses an evil way, and then sets or settles himself in it, resolving not to leave it, no, nor to be beaten out of it.”

Joseph Caryl

II. *Yet, God is different, so glorious, so right, merciful and good –*

1. *Beyond what I can preach! Far beyond what we can reach -*
Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast. Psalm 36:5-6

- A. *His mercy - is in the heavens*
- B. *His faithfulness - reaches to the clouds*
- C. *His righteousness - is like the great mountains*
- D. *His judgments - are a great deep*

2. *As great as all these are, they are for our benefit, not only ours but all –*

You preserve man and beast.

¹⁰ **He sends the springs into the valleys; They flow among the hills.**

¹¹ **They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. Psalm 104:10-11**

²⁷ **These all wait for You, That You may give *them* their food in due**

season. ²⁸ What You give them they gather in; You open Your hand, they are filled with good. Psalm 104:27-29

that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:45

3. *Every good thing, every pleasure we have in this life is ultimately from God –*

How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. Psalm 36:7-9

- A. *Because of God's goodness, we should trust Him*
- B. *Because of God's goodness, we should be satisfied*
 - *With fulness*
 - *With pleasures*
 - *With real life*
 - *With Light*

III. *Because God is higher, better and a Provider,*
PRAY:

1. *For continued loving kindness, and righteousness -*
Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Psalm 36:10

2. *For protection against the proud – wicked –*
Let not the foot of pride come against me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away. Psalm 36:11

IV. *Lastly, remember, crime won't pay, sin is certainly not the Way -*

There the workers of iniquity have fallen; They have been cast down and are not able to rise. Psalm 36:12

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

Arnold Brevick