

## **The Steadfast Love of the Lord (Psalm 36)**

- Psalm 36 is similar to Psalm 1: the wicked are contrasted with the righteous
- The path of the righteous is life while the path of the wicked is destruction
- There are two differences: 1) the order is reversed in Psalm 36
- Psalm 1: path of the righteous (1-3) the wicked (4) the outcome of each (5-6)
- Psalm 36 the focus on the righteous is not on a person but on God's character
- From the outset God's servant presses us with important choices in life
- To reject God's revelation in life will lead progressively to certain destruction
- Embrace God's revelation leads to joy, life, light, protection, provision

### **I. The Path of the Wicked: Their Outlook and Deficiency (vv.1-4)**

- God had given David his servant insight into the heart of the wicked

**“There is no fear of God before his eyes”**

- Paul used David's words in his diagnosis on the nature of sin (Rom 1: 18)
  - 1) Without God: the wicked deceive themselves into thinking they are god (2)
  - 2) Without God: the wicked don't know right from wrong and sink in sin
  - 3) Without God: the wicked cannot speak the truth and be wise and good (3)
  - 4) Without God: their darkened hearts scheme night and day to do evil (3)
  - 5) Without God: the wicked person cannot reject evil even when it is clear (4)

### **II. The Character and Sufficiency of God (vv.5-9)**

- 1) God is characterized by steadfast love: 'covenant love', 'loving kindness' (5)
  - 2) God is characterized by faithfulness: verbal, God's word, his promises (5)
  - 3) God is characterized by righteousness: He rules in justice (Gen 18:25)
  - 4) God is characterized by justice: man & beast alike are spared by Him (6)
- These four characteristics are matched with four blessings to God's people
    - 1) They feast/ or are satisfied: they feast on the abundance of God's house (8)
    - 2) They experience delight/ joy: David uses the plural word for Eden (8)
    - 3) They enjoy "life": – they have life in God through Christ Jesus (John 1:4)
    - 4) They enjoy "light": in his light they see light, Jesus is that light (1 Jhn 3: 2)

### **III. Prayer: Righteous who know God and the wicked who don't (vv10-12)**

- 'know' fellowship with God- 'foot/ hand' wicked reign, God does deliver (12)
- Vs 7 “God is the refuge of His people – His lovingkindness is our shelter