

## THE STANDARD OF GOOD AND EVIL

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Psalm 36

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### INTRODUCTION:

Recurring themes in the early psalms:

1. David contrasts the upright against the wicked, evil.
2. The wicked are considered the enemy of David and God.
3. David writes from the perspective of the upright.
4. David admits that he sometimes does evil deeds, but trusts God to forgive him, but expects judgment for the wicked.
5. David expects an eternity of pleasure in God's presence, but horrible calamity as the end for the wicked.
6. David praises God for His continued faithfulness and waits on God to deal with the wicked at the appropriate time.

? What marks the difference between a wicked person or an upright person in the psalms?

An initial answer might be to say, "A wicked person is wicked because he does bad things, and an upright person is righteous because he does good things."

### **Scientific American, January 2017**

Indeed, decades of research confirm that we are all above average—at least in our own minds.

? What exactly makes a wicked person wicked and a righteous person righteous? If the righteous are forgiven, how are they forgiven? Why aren't the wicked forgiven?

# I. THE HEART OF REBELLION, VV. 1-4

## A. HE HAS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE HIS EYES

### 1. He Has No Fear Of God

#### a. Fear means submission

**Colossians 3:22** Slaves, obey those who are your human masters in everything, not with eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

#### b. Fear means obedience

Deuteronomy 6:1, 2

**Job 1:8** The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

#### c. Fear means faith

Exodus 14:31

#### d. Fear means caring for others more than yourself

**Leviticus 25:17** So you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God.

#### e. Fear means worship

**Deuteronomy 6:13** You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

**Psalms 22:23** You who fear the Lord, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

#### f. Fear means love for God

**Deuteronomy 10:12** "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul

#### g. Fear means service to God

**Joshua 24:14a** Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth

#### h. Fear means clinging to God

**Deuteronomy 10:20** You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name.

#### i. Fearing God means not fearing people nor other gods.

**1 Chronicles 16:25** For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods.

#### j. Fearing God means trusting God and waiting for Him.

**Isaiah 50:10** Who is among you who fears the Lord, Who obeys the voice of His servant, Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

#### k. Fearing God means sharing the Gospel.

**2 Corinthians 5:11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade people, but we are well known to God; and I hope that we are also well known in your consciences.

#### l. Fearing God means salvation

**Psalm 85:9** Certainly His salvation is near to those who [e]fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land.

2. He Has No Fear Of God Before His Eyes

B. HE LIES

1. He Flatters Himself

a. Concerning the discovery of iniquity

**Proverbs 30:20**

This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, And says, "I have done no wrong."

b. Concerning the hatred of it

C. HE PLANS WICKEDNESS ON HIS BED

**II. THE CHARACTER OF GOD, VV. 5, 6**

A. GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVINGKINDNESS

Isaiah 55:7-11; Ephesians 3:14-19

B. GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

C. GOD'S COMMON GRACE

**III. THE UPRIGHT IN HEART, VV. 7-12**

The difference between the rebellious and the upright is the character of God toward them.

A. DEPENDS ON THE MERCY OF GOD

1. How Precious Is Your Lovingkindness.

2. They Drink Their Fill Of Your Abundance

3. In Your Light They See Light

B. EXPERIENCES THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

1. They Take Refuge In God

Psalms 17:8; 57:1; 63:7; 91:4; Ruth 2:12; Luke 13:34

## 2. They Drink From The River of Delights

Psalm 16:11

### **Proverbs 22:4**

The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor, and life.

## 3. They Experience Life

John 1:1-5

### **Proverbs 14:27**

The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, By which one may avoid the snares of death.

### **Proverbs 19:23**

The fear of the Lord leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

## C. CONTINUALLY PRAYS TO GOD VV. 10-12

### 1. Prolong Your Mercy

2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:7-11

### 2. Protect Me From The Proud Foot

### 3. There They Fall

## **CONCLUSION:**

? Is your hope in your own goodness?

? Or is your hope in Jesus alone?

Romans 3:18-26

? You say, wait a minute, what about passages that seem to indicate that we will be judged by our deeds?

### **1 Corinthians 11:32**

But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.