

## PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

### Psalm 36:1-12 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.

<sup>2</sup> For it flatters him in his *own* eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity *and* the hatred of it.

<sup>3</sup> The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise *and* to do good.

<sup>4</sup> He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil.

<sup>5</sup> Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness *reaches* to the skies.

<sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are *like* a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast.

<sup>7</sup> How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

<sup>8</sup> They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.

<sup>9</sup> For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

<sup>10</sup> O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

<sup>11</sup> Let not the foot of pride come upon me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

<sup>12</sup> There the doers of iniquity have fallen; They have been thrust down and cannot rise.

### Psalm 36: God's Great Mercy and Lovingkindness

It is not known during what circumstances David wrote this psalm. The first four verses are a striking picture of what a wicked man is. A wicked man gives himself without remorse to his evil heart. He sins fearlessly. One who listens to the sinful dictates of his heart loses the sense of God's presence and also the fear of His judgments. The wicked man does not fear God, but flatters himself and is convinced that God will not find out his iniquity and will not punish him.

Men convince themselves that God does not hate sin. They convince themselves that God will not punish them for their sins. They have their own set of rules for justifying their sin. They call good evil and evil good. To lose the fear of God opens the door to wickedness. Yet in the end there is a payday. There is a God. His standards are absolute. What is right and what is wrong is in God's Word. Apart from Biblical principles, the vision becomes distorted.

Today our society is seeing the results of a lack of the teaching of God's Word. Wickedness is an accepted way of life. "*The words of his mouth are wickedness and*

*deceit*” ([verse 3](#)). Lying, cheating, and stealing are done with no consciousness of violating God’s word. These are the fruits of atheism and humanism.

Turning from a description of the wicked, David wrote about the faithfulness, righteousness, and lovingkindness of God. The righteousness of God is like the great mountains: unchangeable. His judgments are unsearchable, like the great deep ocean. For all of God’s majesty, He shows a great lovingkindness and providential care for *“the children of men.”*

All are dependent on His care and provision. God’s faithfulness to His creatures is the expression of His unchangeableness. The abundance of God’s blessings is for those who put their trust in Him. He is *“the fountain of life; in Your light we see light”* ([verse 9](#)).

The true light can only be discerned by those who live in it. One whose life is hid with Christ in God endeavors to live in the light of God’s revealed Word. [John 1:4](#) says, *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*

With his heart full of God, David prayed that God would show His lovingkindness and righteousness to those who are upright in heart. He prayed that God would defeat the designs of the wicked. David concluded with the confident acknowledgment that his prayer had been heard.