

Sunday Night Message

August 18, 2013

Psalm 36

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 36

Introduction

I The Condition of the Godless (vs 1 – 4)

The description given here is of man's fallen, adamic nature, which is in all of us. This is also representative of the man without God as he only has his fallen nature. The saved man, though still struggling with his old nature at least also knows the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God.

You will notice that man's problems are rooted in a lack of fear of the Lord.

Compare this passage with Romans 3:9 – 18, which also describes the condition of the lost man.

"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." (Psalms 19:9 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." (Psalms 111:10 KJV)

The Book of Proverbs has a lot to say about the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:20 – 33

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." (Proverbs 1:7 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." (Proverbs 8:13 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened." (Proverbs 10:27 KJV)

"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge." (Proverbs 14:26 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." (Proverbs 14:27 KJV)

"Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." (Proverbs 15:16 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility." (Proverbs 15:33 KJV)

"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil." (Proverbs 16:6 KJV)

"The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." (Proverbs 19:23 KJV)

*"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life."
(Proverbs 22:4 KJV)*

"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long." (Proverbs 23:17 KJV)

Notice in v. 2 the sinful nature of man "flatters" – literally makes smooth – meaning it deceives us into thinking that everything is OK.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9 KJV)

Notice in v. 3 because the lost man is deceived, he is determined to deceive others.

Notice in v. 4 the lost man goes to bed thinking about iniquity:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." (Genesis 6:5 KJV)

Contrast this with the saved man, the godly man:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:1-2 KJV)

"Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life." (Psalms 42:8 KJV)

"When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches." (Psalms 63:6 KJV)

Notice now the contrast between the lost man and the saved man.

II The Character of God (vs 5 – 9)

You will note that the only difference between the saved man and the lost man is the presence of God in the saved man. The saved man in himself is just as

much of a sinner as the lost man. He, however, received the mercy and grace that was offered him through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The “wings” in v. 7 are connected to the “house” in v. 8. They most likely refer to the wings of the cherubim that covered the mercy seat. The mercy seat was where the blood of the atonement was poured out for the sins of the people. It pointed to the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.” (Psalms 57:1 KJV)

“I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.” (Psalms 61:4 KJV)

III The Call for Humility (vs 10 - 12)

In this last section David asks God to help him to stay humble. Pride is the root of all our sin problems. It was pride that caused Satan to fall. It was pride that caused mankind to fall. Man must remember that all that we have, and all that we are is because of God.