

# **“DRINKING FROM THE RIVER OF DELIGHTS”**

## **Psalm 36**

**Pastor Keith E. Gephart**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We live in a dark world and if we're not careful we can be overcome with the darkness. As humans we even know the darkness of our own hearts, and even the best of people can sometimes be overcome by darkness. We must be careful not to allow the corruptions around us cause us to become totally disillusioned with life!

David knows and understands the darkness in both himself and in the wicked. However he also knows something far greater, brighter, more fulfilling, and joyful: he knows the goodness and grace of God! God's goodness is higher, deeper, richer, and fuller than anything this world can ever imagine – and the child of God knows him and has a relationship with him!

In this Psalm we see 1) the wickedness of men in all its perversion (1-4); 2) the magnificence of God in all his goodness (5-6); 3) the blessedness of the godly (7-9); and 4) the fate of all men (10-12).

### **YOU MUST DELIGHT IN GOD.**

- I. THE WICKEDNESS OF MEN IN ALL ITS PERVERSION (1-4)
  - A. Perverted in Thought (1-2)
    - 1. Transgression is his prophet and God (1).
    - 2. Transgression dominates his heart.
    - 3. He does not fear God.
    - 4. Transgression flatters him in his own eyes-- or causes him to think that God flatters him.
    - 5. His iniquity will not be discovered or punished, nor will he come to hate it.
  - B. Perverted in word – wickedness and deceit (3a)
  - C. Perverted in deed-- cessation of wisdom to do good (3b-4)
    - 1. He plots wickedness even on his bed.
    - 2. He deliberately sets himself on a path that is not good.
    - 3. He does not despise evil.

In this portrait we cannot help but see a description of the sinner found in Romans 1 and Romans 3. There is none righteous no not one, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Men are corrupt and without excuse.

- II. THE MAGNIFICENCE OF GOD IN ALL HIS GOODNESS (5-6)

“In this section “words seem to fail him as there rise before him, in all their length and breadth, lovingkindness, the faithfulness, righteousness of Jehovah”; even the universe itself is too tiny to fully set forth the greatness of God (P. 310-11; see 103:11; Eph. 3:18). Kidner, commenting on verses 5-9, says: “Here is a whole world to explore a ‘broad place’ to be brought into (cf. 18:19)” (p. 147).

Man's world and ways are "cramping"; not God's! What a striking contrast we have here in verses 5-9 compared with verses 1-4. This contrast is deliberate.

- A. His Loyal Love extends to the Heavens.
- B. His Faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
- C. His righteousness is like the mountains of God.
- D. His judgments are like a great deep.

III. THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE GODLY (6B-9)

- A. He experiences God's salvation and preservation (6b).
- B. He enjoys the preciousness of God's loyal love (7a).
- C. He finds refuge in the shadow of God's wings (7b).
- D. He satisfies himself with the abundance of God's house and provisions (8).
- E. He drinks from the River of God's delights (8b).
- F. He finds in the Lord the "fountain of life." (9)
- G. He sees light in God's divine light (9b).

After examining this profound picture of the magnificence of God and the blessedness of the godly in Him, David now turns to prayer and observes the fate of all men both godly and ungodly.

IV. THE FATE OF ALL MEN (10-12)

- A. Those who know God and are upright continue to experience his loyal love and righteousness (10).
- B. The prideful wicked will not be able to dominate the righteous with their foot or hand (11).
- C. The doom of the workers of iniquity is certain – they have been thrown down and will not rise (12).

CONCLUSION

Don't be overcome with the darkness. The world lies in darkness and is under the power of the wicked one. But you do not belong to the world; you belong to the God of lovingkindness, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice. He and his attributes are precious, and we take refuge in him. He fills us with the abundance of his house, and we drink of the River of his delights! With God is the fountain of life, and in his light we see light.

**YOU MUST DELIGHT IN GOD.**