



**Sinner Savior Saint
The Character of the Wicked Vs. The Character of God
Psalm 36**

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Psalm 36:title–12

“For the music director. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD. Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed and the hatred of it. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. He plans wickedness on his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not reject evil. Your mercy, LORD, extends



to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep. LORD, You protect mankind and animals. **How precious is Your mercy, God! And the sons of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You allow them to drink from the river of Your delights. For the fountain of life is with You; In Your light we see light. Prolong Your mercy to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright of heart. May the foot of pride not come upon me, And may the hand of the wicked not drive me away. Those who do injustice have fallen there; They have been thrust down and cannot rise.**" (NASB 2020)

Ever go on a serious diet. I mean you have to lose x pounds by a specific date or else. When I was wrestling in High School, making weight for the unlimited class was not an issue for me. But that was not the case for those who were in various weight categories.

All of us got weighed in prior to every single match. For me, not an issue, but for the rest of the team, a serious issue. You must weigh exactly the amount and not one gram more. You can indeed weigh less, but that was not the problem for many, it was being at or slightly below the required weight for the class they were wrestling in.

On one trip, one of our wrestlers, who was having a battle to maintain his weight, told me he could literally hear hamburgers call out his name. We would help him not to listen to that; we all worked together to keep us on the straight and narrow as per weight. Even though I was unlimited, coach did not want me to weigh more than 210 pounds. I was in on this as well as a result.

I learned that we could do this easily, together, as a team. Guys would literally call up other guys to help them stay away from goodies they knew they could not have because it would mean not making weight.

I will never forget one of the guys who had a birthday, and he splurged on some cake. He did not make weight because of the cake. Fortunately for him, the wrestler in the next weight class was ill so he wrestled in that class and had the fight of his life. He was way underweight, his opponent, not so much. He lost and learned a lesson. He made weight from that point on.

Here in Psalm 36, we find out that it isn't a hamburger calling your name, but it is the sin that all of us were prone to engage in before we came to Christ. For some of us, even after believing, the trouble is still there or shows up, again.

Prior to the Holy Spirit introducing us to Jesus, we were enamored with self and sin was a natural thing for us to do. We all have the sin nature, so it was a natural thing.

This is why the Laodicean church does so well today. You see, a God that winks at sin and lets you do your own thing with no accountability, that sells. A quid pro quo God who rewards you for giving, doing works or relying on formulaic prayers, that also sells.

But a Holy God who demands that those who follow Him also be holy (Exodus 22:31, 1 Peter 1:16), people have a problem with that.

There are those who do not know Jesus who realize that what they are doing is a problem. Some of them wind up in "churches" that instead of lovingly confronting and showing them their need for Jesus, they instead teach another Jesus who affirms their lifestyle and their sin.

This is what David is talking about here in verse 1, sin that talks to you. Acts that truly communicate with you since they are who we truly are without Christ.



Satan wants to keep everyone thinking they are ok “as is” no matter what the behavioral issues are. Wink wink.

But some behavioral problems if left unattended, turn into addictions. We all think about alcohol or drugs, but there are those who are addicted to pornography and sex. There are also those who are addicted to being clean, or overeating, and on and on.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we too are in a battle. Not to make weight, but to remain separate from sin and faithful to Jesus. We also cannot do this on our own and we need to encourage each other.

What happens if you choose to ignore it and do whatever you want, and if the sin provides a bit of a buzz or hormonal release, there is a danger, you lose control and want that feeling again and do whatever it takes to get it.

Endorphins from a runner's high is not a joke, and my roommate would run and run just to get there even to his own detriment at times. Weightlifting is not bad for you, but when you become obsessed with having perfectly defined muscles, or heavier and heavier weights, then maybe a line has been crossed and once again we are not in control.

Sin does that to us. It controls, we do not, but at first it looks attractive and appears to be something we can control. That is the hook. Soon, sin is calling the shot and sin is calling your name demanding that you respond and take care of that itch. Without Christ, we thought nothing of this.

If the behavior was not off the charts or criminal, then no problem. This is why our culture has no issue with abortions, promiscuity, multiple partners, adultery, and on and on. Hollywood even goes as far as lying to us that there are no consequences for bad behavior as long as it feels good or feels right. Even the abuse of certain substances, previously illegal, are now ok in some states.

All of this caters to the flesh and leads to a strange dependence unless it is broken by Jesus.

Welcome to the horror of the one who has made sin, literally evil and the doing of it, their god. There is no pretense of anything good in this person...not at all. Here in Psalm 36, we see sin speaking with the one who is enslaved to it and operating as a traitor to God.

As we read this, the shocking thought behind it is, before we came to Christ, that was us. All of us.

Psalm 36:1

“Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.” (NASB 2020)

David is very clear with his word choice here. פֶּשַׁע (pesa) is the word he chooses to use.

Peša' refers to an outrageous, imprudent act disruptive of the community on both a small and a large scale and one that could be viewed with enormous severity in connection with the legal sphere, international law, and especially in the relationship to Yahweh. (Ringgren and Seebass 2003, 143)

As we will learn elsewhere, think treachery, think turncoat, think becoming a traitor.

Whoever commits peša' does not merely rebel or protest against Yahweh but breaks with him, takes away what is his, robs, embezzles, misappropriates it. Although it always implies a conscious behavior, the term per se does not describe the attitude but the criminal act. (Ringgren and Seebass 2003, 144-145)



So, when David says pesa, crime, wrongdoing, the specific acts of sin, speaks. He is saying that the one who is given over to evil only is listening to the crime they will commit.

In reality, it is much worse than that. You see, elsewhere in the scriptures, we learn that sin is more than misappropriating what belongs to God for ourselves, it is more than missing the mark of perfection that God calls for, it is also treachery. Ezekiel is pretty up front about it and also brings up a good question as well.

Ezekiel 18:24

“But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.” (ESV)

The one who does not know the Lord has not only given themselves over to wrongdoing, literally misappropriating what is God's for themselves selfishly, but they have also turned to the other side and are traitors to God, the very one who created them.

Yet this God who they have turned away from, has literally moved heaven and earth to provide a means for all of us to be saved from our treachery, our sin, our pesa.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (ESV)

We were created in God's image (Genesis 1:26), and that is the problem. We were created by God, we truly, all of mankind, belongs to Him. Per Dr. Heiser, “Though imagers are like God, they aren't God. That's a truth we know all too well from our own struggles and experiences in a fallen world. Without genuine free will, imagers cannot truly represent God...the image of God is not an attribute or ability. Rather, it is a status conferred by God on all humans, that of representing God.” (Heiser 2025, 69)

Being made in God's image also means we have attributes that we share with God such as intelligence, creativity, and free will decision making. Imaging his hindered though, because of the fall in Genesis 3, where that free will was exercised resulting in the fall. Only God is perfect, not man and not those members of the unseen realm who also include some who made poor decisions.

One of the results of the fall is all of mankind since that day has been born with the sin nature. We are all in rebellion, we are all traitors.

We are born in full on rebellion against God. Ever notice that with children, you do not need to teach them to do wrong, they are pretty good at that. But we teach them to do the right things.

We are born with the natural predilection to deny the creator, the one who truly has the right to say He owns us; of even that most basic right. We are born as traitors and because of that, returning to that pig pen is not hard to do if we as followers of Jesus cease to live in the spirit and opt to live in the flesh instead.

Paul is upfront about that. The flesh is where we are, when we are not in the Spirit.



Romans 8:6–8

“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**” (ESV)

This is indeed talking about those who do not know the Lord, but it is also talking about you and me when we decide to do life on our own and start operating in the flesh. Our flesh, per James, tempts us, and then we take a second look and boom, Satan already has the hook right where he wants it.

James 1:13–15

“And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.” (NLT)

Keep this tucked in the back of our minds as we study this chapter, because the one who is listening to sin, that happens to be David talking about what took him down with Bathsheba. Yes, it can be a believer operating in the flesh.

It is also a characteristic of the one who does not know the Lord.

The Lord begins the process of wooing us to Him through the Holy Spirit but not everyone is willing to listen. Few do in fact and most continue on in their rebellion. Literally robbing, embezzling and misappropriating what belongs to God, us, for our own pleasures. Fully engaging as traitors to the King. And when one is into wrongdoing, such as the one David speaks of here, there is a problem as to what they are listening to. For the person who does not know God, this is a known process being exposed to us by David.

There is no longer anything there to throttle back the one who is given over to sin and wickedness from not doing this. The internal conscious has been seared to the point of ineffectiveness and all that matters is the fulfillment of and attainment of that thrill, the high of the moment, the act itself. Pesa speaks to the individual.

Does the person know they are doing wrong? Deep inside they do. There is a thing in forensic interviewing that we see that the body and the subconscious in most cases knows that what you have done is wrong because when you verbally deny it, your body is screaming out with various actions that no, I did it.

But it is the sin, the pesa, that speaks to the person. I remember interviewing a young man who was arrested for stealing radios out of over 30 vehicles. He told me it was fun and he did it for the money. Literally, as he walked by a car, he said the radio would call out to him if the car was unlocked. Welcome to Psalm 36:1.

Psalm 36:1 “Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; **There is no fear of God before his eyes.**” (NASB 2020)

The last half of that verse tells us the why someone would do this. This is a statement of character, of what is a driving force in the life of the one who is ungodly. Or, the driving force of the one in the flesh.

He has none of the terror inspired by God, and hence God is excluded from the whole horizon of his life. The phrase is not the normal one for the fear of God (yir’at yhw) but one that speaks more of terror



(pachad 'elôhîm). Paul quotes these words in Romans 3:18 as giving the cause of all the manifestations of sin he has just listed. (Harman 2011, 304)

Jesus can save anyone at anytime, but there are those who make decisions in their life that places them in direct opposition to God and in some cases, God may no longer be talking to them, like with Pharoah or Herod.

Sin is the motivation of the one who is ungodly and who has progressed to the point where they no longer fear God, the act of evil, the act of sin, the doing of it. Why do serial killers keep killing? They are given over to the sin, and in many cases have invited the enemy in, becoming demon possessed, and they actually are listening to the call of the act.

Truly, the only way to stop those who are at this point is for them to be regenerated by coming to Christ and have their lives changed by Him.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.** The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (ESV)

Salvation is not to make you and me nice, but that is a result but not the true need of the moment. Salvation is to make us new creatures in Christ. When we come to Christ, everything changes and we are the focus of that. "When God regenerates us, the Holy Spirit of God instantaneously unites us to Christ. In that union the Spirit takes all the benefit of what the Son has done—his resurrection life, his righteousness, his grace—and applies it all to us. This changes our nature, gives us the new birth, makes us new creatures." (Lawrence 2017, 25-26)

When Satan lies about the evil, he is enticing you to do, do not expect him to make you hate it anytime soon as he leads the willing person down the path. Let's read the context.

Psalms 36:1–2

"**Wrongdoing** speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. For it **flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed and the hatred of it.**" (NASB 2020)

Satan lies to those who are following an ungodly lifestyle, or are involved in some sin, living in the flesh, that they can do this, and no one will ever know. Really? Prisons are filled with people today who took that bait and acted on it. Marriages fail everyday because of that lie. Pastors fall almost weekly because of this. Without Jesus, they will go right back to it as well, whatever it was that was giving them the thrill. This term is called recidivism. Satan will use it with believers and the flesh too.

Recidivism is "a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior especially: relapse into criminal behavior." (Miriam-Webster Inc. 2003) Or simply self serving behavior.

What we see here in Psalm 36 is why, without the regeneration only Christ can provide, that is a problem. In 1984, the Olmos Maximum Security Prison 40 miles southeast of Buenos Aires had 1% of those in the prison who had come to Christ and a recidivism problem of 40% or more. But then God began a work there.

Cristian...became a Christian while imprisoned in Olmos for armed robbery and auto theft. While growing up, he was in and out of reform schools and never held a job for more than a couple of weeks. "It was always easier to steal," he says. Since his release three years ago, he has married, bought a home, and he works 10 hours a day in a bakery. He attributes his success on the outside to his life-changing



experience inside the prison. “When you really have an encounter with God, you recognize the damage sin does, and you want to change,” he says. (Tone 1996, 105)

The recidivism rate for Christian prisoners released from Olmos is only about 5% as compared to over 40% for the rest of the prison population. This did not escape the notice of the provincial government who knew a good thing when they saw it and who began to transfer groups of 20 Christian prisoners each to other prisons around the country. As a result, prison churches began springing up all over Argentina and today there are churches in every one of Argentina's 40 prisons. The prison system of the entire nation is being transformed! (Baruch 2012)

What David is writing about here is not new. The sin nature lies to us. We believe we can be satisfied by what it is we think we need to have. Whether that is someone else's car, or someone else's wife.

For those who are followers of Christ, who then fall, and yes there are Christians who do indeed fall, those who fall sexually get hit with losing almost everything they had and held dear to them, yet the temptation to go there again is high. Many are held captive by their own neurochemicals and want to go there again.

The primary neurochemicals in this system are dopamine, norepinephrine, and serotonin. Dopamine could be referred to as the “pleasure chemical.” When released in the brain, it produces a feeling of ecstasy and bliss. Dopamine is most active in the areas of the brain related to reward and pleasure, the same areas involved in addiction; and that is why high levels of dopamine bring about a chemical rush similar to the effects of amphetamines. Norepinephrine is chemically related to adrenalin and when released in the brain causes a state of heightened excitement and focused attention. Serotonin is predominately an inhibitory neurochemical and is suppressed by dopamine activity. This means that when dopamine levels are high, serotonin levels are low. Low levels of serotonin in the brain bring about feelings of euphoria and obsessional thinking. (Stanford 2010, 51)

Literally, your brain has you hooked on a person, and if that person is your spouse, no problem. But Satan perverts this and in our culture today, with porn and sex everywhere, there are those who listen to the lies and begin to seek this high in places they have no business going. They are, as the song says, hooked on a feeling.

Why do we talk about discipleship and the need to be part of a fellowship? Why is it important for men to gather together in fellowship as men and women to do the same. So that we have friendships and relationships that can help those who are struggling with this.

Our culture is permissive, and today, so are many so called churches. “All men (and many women) struggle with lust. Our “feel good” culture tells us to follow our primal impulses with little thought of the consequences.” (Stanford 2010, 60)

Peter wrote about this.

2 Peter 2:18–22

“For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them:



“The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”
(ESV)

As a non-Christian, the solution is Jesus. That is also the solution for those who are followers of Jesus but have fallen. It also means lifestyle changes, the building of structure in your life to avoid or preempt temptation and a need to be consistently and constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. You see, left to ourselves, and on our own, we will be tempted to listen the pesa speaking to us. We really are traitors at heart.

The problem with the flesh is this. We are all sinners saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8). Former traitors living day to day in the grace of God. We need to look at this differently. We are all former traitors to the King of the Universe and as such, unless we keep our eyes on Him, are prone to go back to our former lifestyle of being a traitor.

The only problem is that as a follower of Christ, the decision to return to being a traitor may not look like full on rebellion, but it will instead be nuanced and be traitorous actions against a spouse, or a job, or the taxing authority for the government, and on and on.

Psalms 36:1–4

“Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed and the hatred of it. **The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. He plans wickedness on his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not reject evil.**” (NASB 2020)

Point one, we need to counter the reason why this is all taking place in the first place. Only Jesus has the answer and realizing that means reversing the “no fear of God” to a fear of God.

Again, only real transformation is available through Jesus Christ. Self-help will not get you there, only Jesus. Only an encounter with the living God will change anyone. For the person who does not know Him, it is by accepting the assessment of God that we are indeed sinners in need of a savior and that is why Christ came to this planet. Coming to Christ in Faith and believing that what He did on the cross for us to be forgiven is indeed the only way.

For the one who has fallen and must repent to come back into fellowship, there is the realization that Jesus loves you just as much now as He did when you were first saved. Nothing has changed. Yes, your sin has indeed found you out.

Do not listen to the lie that God can never forgive me for what I did. He still loves you and wants you to be back in fellowship. David has been there himself; he sinned, he got someone pregnant he was not married to, he then had that person’s husband murdered and then turned around and married her and then laid low thinking he had gotten away with it. But Nathan the prophet confronted David ending that lie of the enemy (2 Samuel 12:7).

There are consequences when we sin. Sowing and reaping are not ideas, they are a fact and those who sin and then return may indeed lose relationships and jobs they wish they had never placed at jeopardy.

The key for the believer, repent and come home.

1 John 1:6–9

“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is



not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

The first sentence there is another way of what David says “...it flatters him in his own eyes concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed and the hatred of it.”

Honesty is required. You did the crime, repent, return to fellowship with the Lord and with your brothers and sisters. Allow iron to sharpen iron (Proverbs 27:17) and don’t worry about anything except your relationship with the Lord and with those who your actions may have severely wounded. Repairing treachery like that, that takes time.

There are a couple of things to remember as you return to the Lord.

First of all, God loves you. Jeremiah reminded the people of Judah of this. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, ESV)

And now that you are back in relationship with the Lord, or are in relationship for the first time ever, you are a new creation in Christ.

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (ESV)

And there is another sad fact for you to deal with, you cannot go back and undo what it is that the sin led you to do. You have been forgiven by the Lord when you exercise 1 John 1:9, you never lost your salvation, but you may not ever heal the relationships this side of heaven.

The key is to walk in the light, as it says in 1 John 1:7. How do we do that? By becoming accountable. This is not a vague yes, I am part of a fellowship and we hold each other accountable. This is an accountability where there is someone you can call when you are tempted to repeat what caused the problem in the first place.

Being accountable also means no more masks, full disclosure. This sounds a lot like dealing with an alcohol addiction, yes, it is.

When you are allowing wrongdoing to call the shots, yep, you have indeed ceased to be wise and do good.

David would know that he had been there. The one who is listening to sin, plans wickedness on his bed.

2 Samuel 11:14–15

“In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die.”” (ESV)

Part of what we are reading here is a private testimony from David of the power and control he allowed wrongdoing, sin, to have over him.

But just as we have been discussing the grace of God and the forgiveness of God, David also experienced that.



But there is an element of truth in what we see here. This is not scripture that is true of just some, it is true of all of us before we came to Christ and experienced His grace.

Psalms 36:1–4

“Wrongdoing speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes. For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his wrongful deed and the hatred of it. The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good. He plans wickedness on his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not reject evil.” (NASB 2020)

We see that and sin, the sad and sorry result of the fall, is a reality for most of the world today. The contrast to that is in God Himself, who He is and His grace and mercy towards us.

Psalms 36:5–9

“Your mercy, LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep. LORD, You protect mankind and animals. How precious is Your mercy, God! And the sons of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You allow them to drink from the river of Your delights. For the fountain of life is with You; In Your light we see light.” (NASB 2020)

This is the one that most of the world rejects. We look at this as followers of Jesus and are struck with questions, the biggest, “why would anyone ever reject Him?” But at one time, we too were traitors to Him. Remember, even now, each sin is an act of treachery against God. This is the God that those who are busy serving their god of the flesh and sin do not fear. Before we came to Christ, we had no idea of who He was.

I know I didn’t. I thought He was someone who was out there and unknowable. Since coming to Christ, I have learned that just is not the case. Our God moved heaven and earth to provide a means of salvation for us.

Romans 5:6–11

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God’s condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” (NLT)

As we come to Christ and our eyes are opened, we see God for who He is. If we have been busy following the flesh and we have returned to Him repenting of our sin, exercising 1 John 1:9, our vision clears up as well. And we see the same thing.

We see His mercy, His hesed reflecting His faithfulness. With our eyes now opened, we also see His righteousness in how He brought us to Himself, or, in what He allowed to happen to us as we chased after our own ideas and sins.

God’s dealings with men are not to be fathomed by every boaster who demands to see a why for every wherefore. The Lord is not to be questioned by us as to why this and why that. He has reasons, but he does not choose to submit them to our foolish consideration. (Spurgeon n.d., 159)



Here is the thing, some of us were at a place where we doubted the existence of God. Many still do or they want a God on their conditions who only operates as they want. Our God operates today as He did 1 million years ago. Nothing has ever changed.

Before we were listening to pesa, we were traitors and in rebellion to the King. Yet that King still continued to feed us just as He continues to take care of all of the animals.

The animals were not traitors, we were. Yet we became the subjects of His grace which He lavished on us. Not all have said yes to this amazing grace. But the truth remains.

Ephesians 1:7–10

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” (ESV)

Why would we ever want to turn away from Him again? The sin nature. The reason why we must die daily to self as a living sacrifice to the Lord. Paul wraps this idea up for us in Romans 12.

Romans 12:1–2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (ESV)

As we learn to place our trust in the Lord, we, like David, discover just how precious His mercy truly is. As David returned from his sin, he fully understood what could have happened, but he repented and God showed him mercy. He does the same with us as well.

We see in verse 8 that God’s intent for those who are His, is to be with Him on a restored earth. Exactly what we see take place beginning with the rule and reign of Jesus Christ here on the earth during the millennium and then continuing on into eternity.

Revelation 22:1–5

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life—water as clear as crystal—pouring out from the throne of God and of the Lamb, flowing down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river is the tree of life producing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month of the year. Its leaves are for the healing of the nations. And there will no longer be any curse, and the throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him, and they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, and they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, because the Lord God will shine on them, and they will reign forever and ever.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Those who are His have a future that we can only dream of. It is a future because of His mercy and the work of Jesus Christ on the cross for us.

Psalms 36:10–12

“Prolong Your mercy to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright of heart. May the foot of pride not come upon me, And may the hand of the wicked not drive me away. Those who do injustice have fallen there; They have been thrust down and cannot rise.” (NASB 2020)



We have a picture that David has now given us. The life of the rebel who allows sin to control and speak to him versus the God of mercy who has provided for the rebel to come home and end his rebellion.

Understanding, brought about by experiencing this firsthand, he knows how precious the mercy of God is. We do too.

As a result, we can also agree with David here in prayer. For those of us who know Him, we long for and desire the continuation of His unfailing *hesed* towards us. "God's kindness finds expression in his endless reconciling love, always ready to forgive. Once again, this love is expressed pregnantly in a liturgical formula: "Merciful and gracious is Yahweh, slow to anger and of great kindness." This excludes from the outset any possibility that human beings, following the secular principle of mutuality, could repay Yahweh in turn the divine kindness they have experienced or do him an act of kindness. The social nature of *hesed* is maintained, however: God's kindness towards an individual places that individual in a new relationship with his neighbor, a relationship based on Yahweh's kindness; in his daily contacts with others he must keep the kindness he has experienced, he must practice righteousness and justice, kindness and mercy. Thus *hesed* shapes not only the relationship of Yahweh with human beings, but also that of human beings among themselves." (Zobel 1986, 63)

His mercy will naturally lead to righteousness. And the view is for this to continue on into eternity here. David though remembers why he is here to begin with, the source of the problem he encountered earlier when he listened to sin. It began with pride.

Psalms 36:11–12

"May the foot of pride not come upon me, And may the hand of the wicked not drive me away. Those who do injustice have fallen there; They have been thrust down and cannot rise." (NASB 2020)

It is also natural, knowing that many are still in the arms of *pasa* and following their own desires, to pray that we not be driven away from the Lord by them.

That is the continuing call of the world today. Do what we do since everybody is doing it. Follow our ideas and wink at sin. Do what feels good and is best for you. And today, relationships are disposable. We do not want to go there and agree with David as he prays to not be driven by the ungodly to where they will be going. And that is to hell. I agree with David, Lord, keep us out of the hands of the wicked.

Let's pray.



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