

2-21-2021

PSALM 36

- Verse 1 If you have faith you fear God. If you fear God you fear nothing else.
Cf. Ps. 119:120 - Luther: "My hairs have bristled and stood on end from the judgments of condemnation." See also Is. 66:2; Mt. 10:24-28; Acts 5:11; Phil. 2:12.
- A. "Transgression" - open rebellion.
 - B. "no fear of God" - see Rom 3:10-20, noting that verse 18 refers to Ps. 36:1. Recall Ps. 10:11.
 - C. Where there is no fear of God there's this: Jn. 3:18; Is. 66:22-24; Dan. 12:1-2 ("contempt" - worthless, deserving scorn); Mt. 7:13 ("destruction" - refers to loss or ruin, not annihilation); 8:12; 10:28; 13:41-42; 25:29-30; 46; Mk. 9:47-48; I Thess. 1:10; Jude 13; Rev. 14:9-11.
- Verse 2 A. "flatters himself" - makes smooth - covers up.
B. "iniquity" - crooked behavior or perversity. Iniquity takes into account the deed and its consequences.
- Verse 3 "deceit" - 41:9; 55:12,13. A "friend" who deceives is the worst enemy one could have.
- Verse 4 Augustine: "Our bed is our heart: there we suffer the tossing of an evil conscience; and there we rest when our conscience is good." Mt. 12:33-37; Mk. 7:21-23.
- Verses 5-6 Note God's attributes. Steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, judgments, salvation.
- Verses 7-9 The blessings are given to all but recognized by few. God's people in Christ know His steadfast love, mercy, forgiveness. We feast on the truths and promises of His Word and Sacraments. Christ is our fountain of eternal life. His Word is a light for our feet and a lamp for our paths (Ps. 119:105). In His light we see the light of eternal life in Christ.
- Verses 10-12 The closing prayer. The success and prosperity of the wicked are momentary. Let's keep Ps. 73 in mind.