

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 36 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Now in this Psalm we see David looking at the human heart, how evil it is, how wicked it is. Now some might be offended by that but please understand that God is the one who said this. We are told in Jeremiah 17:9, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”** That is what is in our heart and it is only God who can show us and change us.

Also, as David looks at the evilness of the wicked he then looks to the Lord for protection, for comfort, for rest. I think this Psalm truly applies to us today as we see evil growing in this country and this world and it is easy to get discouraged, to get depressed, and to lose hope. And that truly is the point of this Psalm, look to the Lord, rest in Him and see the salvation that He will bring to the situations we find ourselves in no matter how evil they may be. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 36 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 36**VERSES 1-4**

1. An oracle was basically a revelation from the spirit world. Thus, it could be from God or demonic. Paul warned Timothy of this very thing in I Timothy 4:1, where he said, **“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”** Then how do we know if it is of God or not? The reason we can say that something is not of God is if it is contrary to the Word of God. If it is contrary to God’s Word then it is a doctrine of demons and we should not follow it, it is not of God.

2. What is interesting here is that we see David have a revelation from God regarding why people are evil. Notice what he says the reason for this is. He tells us, **“... There is no fear of God before his eyes.”** So it begins with this lack of fearing God and that leads to how they live out their lives!

What is manifested in their lives? We see that they are prideful, **“... he flatters himself in his own eyes.”** He is very proud, very boastful of what he has accomplished! He thinks he can get away with all that he is doing. Because of rejecting God his life is filled with lies, deceit, and evil. The words from his mouth are wicked. In other words, what is found in their heart will flow from their lips. In fact, evil has become so normal, so natural in peoples lives that they think nothing of it. And what ends up happening is that the evil person devises more evil to perpetrate upon people. In fact, they become insensitive to evil!

Can you imagine staying awake at night coming up with evil plans to take advantage of people so that they can satisfy their own fleshly desires? They are insensitive to good and love evil. Proverbs 4:16-17 makes this interesting statement, **“For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.”**

I like the way that Arno Gaebelein sums it up for us. He wrote, “Loving darkness more than light, he calls evil good and good evil and is self-righteous and has an excuse for everything.” How true that is! And J. J. Stewart Perowne traces this flow by concluding that the wicked person’s “very conscience is hardened, so that he does evil without repugnance or misgiving.”

Now that can be discouraging if David ended there but he doesn’t. Notice what his focus is now upon!

VERSES 5-6

1. There is going to be evil in this world until the Lord returns. That is not the issue for us. The real issue is this. You see, as much as evil men try to come against people, God is protecting His people, watching over them. Of the wicked and their ultimate end, Matthew Henry put it this way. He said, “They are self-destroyers by being self-flatterers; Satan could not deceive them, if they did not deceive themselves. But will the cheat last always? No, the day is coming when the sinner will be undeceived, when his iniquity shall be found hateful.” In other words, what you sow, you will reap, whether good or evil.

2. And it is so important that we have a heavenly perspective or we can lose hope in the things that are happening in our lives and around us. And please understand that when David speaks of God's mercy being in the heavens, His faithfulness reaching to the clouds, that God's righteousness is like the mighty mountains and His judgments are deep he is not saying that God is so distant from us.

David is saying that everything about God is great, it is deep, it is rich, it is beyond anything we could ever imagine or think. Not only that but God loves us so much that He extends that mercy, that faithfulness, that righteousness to us and He judges the wicked! Make no mistake about it; David placed his life in the hands of the Lord because he had an experiential knowledge of the Lord's love, His faithfulness, His righteousness, His justice. God will not only deal with the wicked but He will also protect His people! And thus, David saw these things not only fulfilled in his life, but in the lives of others. Remember what David said in Psalm 27:13, "**I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.**"

And that is what we need to do. Remember what God has done in the past, what He has shown us and use that for the present situation we are in to help us get refocused on the Lord and not what is before us!

VERSES 7-9

1. This is the God that man rejects and you can clearly see that it is a fool that says no to God. God's lovingkindness towards us is so precious and because we know of His lovingkindness we can rest in Him, under the shadow of His wings for protection. And it is as we rest in the Lord that we find total satisfaction, He sustains us, He refreshes us with His living water. He is the fountain of life and it is only as we are in Him, abiding in Him that we can clearly see. What do I mean by that? I mean that God's Word opened up to us by God's Spirit shows us everything we need to know to live out our faith and apart from God's Word we are walking in darkness not knowing where we are going! He is the light of the world and thus, may we look to Him to guide us!

VERSES 10-12

1. David is praying that God would stretch out His lovingkindness to those who know Him, love Him. Jeremiah 31:3 tells us, "**The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'**" How long does God's love last towards us? It is everlasting, it never ends, it just keeps going and going and going! That should bring to us great comfort that no matter how much we blow it, we fall short, God loves us and there is nothing that can separate us from that love that is found in Christ Jesus our Lord! Let me share this story with you and I think you will see what I mean regarding God's love for us. We are told,

The famed opera house in the city of Paris was scheduled to host a well-known operatic singer. The day of the performance, the singer came down with the flu and had to cancel his engagement. But it was too late to alert the ticket holders. So when the guests arrived in the great opera hall, the host came before the people and said, “We regret to inform you that our singer could not be here tonight. He is ill. A local singer will be singing tonight instead.”

The local singer took the stage. The audience greeted him with silence. The man sang with all his heart. People listened patiently, but were not very impressed. So when he finished, there was no applause whatsoever. But then, from the top balcony, a little voice was heard to say, “Daddy, I think you were wonderful.”

Upon hearing that, the entire opera house began to clap and eventually gave the singer a standing ovation.

- Source Unknown

The wicked may come against us, they may put us down, mock us, they may make fun of us but God loves us. Even friends may hurt us at times. But here is the thing. God is right there cheering us on, He thinks that we are wonderful and isn't that what really matters!

2. Now as much as the wicked doesn't really fear God and as much as they feel they can get away with murder, they are dead wrong. God will deal with the wicked. Their rebellion, their sin will not continue on forever. And as you see this Psalm end David understood that. You see, he started out with the wicked and how bad they are and what they get away with and he ends with his prayers answered, they will not get away with anything. They will be brought down and they will not rise!

It is as we read in Psalm 75:4-8, **“I said to the boastful, ‘Do not deal boastfully,’ And to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up the horn. Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.’ For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.”** It is a warning to the wicked to turn to the Lord or be judged in His righteous judgment!

PSALM 37

We are not sure what brought David to write this Psalm, he could have been meditating on the Lord and the various situations he found himself in. And out of that, he developed a proper perspective of things; he was going to rest in the Lord. What we do know is that David wrote this Psalm towards the end of his life and he is writing out of his life experiences.

The reason I say this is because we are told in verse 25, “**I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.**” And so, out of his life experiences David is writing this Psalm with the idea of resting in the Lord! You see, it is one thing to speak from theory; it is something else to speak from personal history. And here, David does just that and he understood what it means to rest in the Lord.

VERSES 1-2

1. As you look at the success of evildoers, as you see what they can amass and accomplish, it is easy to lose hope, to be in despair, but David tells us not to do that. He tells us not to focus on what they have gained in this day because that day is coming to an end and they will be cut down unless they turn to the Lord! Proverbs 24:19-20 says, “**Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.**”

2. I think we can easily become envious of the wicked when we have our eyes focused with this world in mind instead of eternity. We love to hold onto the things that will quickly pass away instead of the Lord. I am not saying you can't enjoy things, not at all. What I am saying is this. Are the things of this world more important to you than the Lord? That is something you will have to decide for yourself.

John puts it in perspective for us when he wrote, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”** I John 2:15-17. Thus, our eyes must be focused with eternity in mind and not consumed with this short life!

3. One more point before we move on. This Psalm is an acrostic. What that means is that the first line of each verse is a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet in this acrostic. In fact, it is every two verses of this forty verse Psalm. For example, two verses of this psalm begin with Aleph, two verses with Beth, two verses with Gimel, etc., right through the alphabet. Why did they do it this way? Think about the ABC books for your children and how they illustrated pictures of the different letters of the alphabet to help them learn them. That is what is done here and we will see that again in Psalm 119, as well as a few others.

VERSES 3-4

1. I like what David does here. Instead of focusing on the wicked he tells us to look to the Lord, place your trust in Him. Why is that important? Because as you do, as you walk in goodness God will direct your life, He will lead you where you need to go! God is faithful, we can trust in Him as Numbers 23:19 says, **“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**

2. Now please understand that when David said that God will give to us the desires of our heart he is not saying that God is like some kind of cosmic Santa Clause, giving to us whatever we want. Then what is David saying here? Listen carefully because this is important and many get this wrong because they are focused on the world and what it has instead of what we need to do. You see, if the focus of your life is the Lord, if He is your joy, then your desires will be His desires. That is a promise from God. In Matthew 6:10 Jesus said of how we should pray, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”** You see, God is getting His will done through us and as we focus upon Him, His hearts desire becomes our hearts desire! Paul, in Philippians 2:13 put it like this, **“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”** If you are not focused upon Him but you are focused on the world, then your actions will be worldly! May we learn to delight ourselves in the Lord!

VERSES 5-6

1. David starts out with this word, **“commit”** and it literally means to “roll.” Now let’s put this into perspective. David is telling us to let the problems of life roll off us and onto the Lord. Give them to Him. Let Him guide and direct us. Remember what Peter said, and it is really what David is telling us here, but in I Peter 5:7 Peter said, **“casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”**

Not only that but Solomon tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6, “**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.**” No matter how things may look, don’t try to handle it yourself but place your full trust in the Lord and He will direct your paths, He will smooth out those bumpy roads of life. It is not easy nor is it intended to be easy. You see, if it was easy, if we could do it on our own, we would not need the Lord. But life is not like that and every day we wake up we should start our day by giving Him our life to do as He pleases and trusting in Him as we go to direct our steps, our paths!

2. Yes, God is working in you but that is not all He is doing through these times. You see, what happens when you *trust, delight, commit* your life to the Lord? The result is God will use you as a witness. His love will shine forth through you. You will be a light to those around you of what God has done and is doing in your life!

It is as Paul says in Ephesians 2:7, “**that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**” God will display us, and the purpose is simple. He is showing all creation the immutable richness of His grace that has been extended to us and His love that is seen in Christ and His sacrificial work to save us. Thus, keep rolling your questions, concerns, and problems on the Lord every day and the way in which you should go will be made clear to you.

VERSES 7-8

1. Notice what David is saying here. We are to rest in the Lord, we are to wait upon Him patiently and if we don't, then there is trouble! What is that trouble? I think it flows from our actions. We become angry, even revengeful at what we see the wicked do to us!

Listen again to what David says we need to do:

- Trust in the LORD – Psalm 37:3
- Delight in the LORD – Psalm 37:4
- Commit your way to the LORD – Psalm 37:5
- Rest in the LORD – Psalm 37:7a
- Wait patiently for Him – Psalm 37:7b

If we can do that, which is one of the hardest things for us to do, we will not manifest the works of the flesh in our lives but the fruit of the Spirit because we are trusting, delighting, committing, resting and waiting upon the Lord! Can we be like Abraham who “**. . . being fully convinced that what He [God] had promised He was also able to perform.**” Romans 4:21. True faith waits and is confident that God is able to bring to pass that which He has promised!

VERSES 9-11

1. Once again David is giving us a perspective of things. Yes there is evil and evildoers today but they will not last long when you look at things through the eyes or lens of eternity! We focus so much time, so much energy to change this or change that when in reality we can't change anything. Now don't get mad or discouraged because we can't change anything, but God can and He does and He will. We are to bring the Gospel message to people and pray for them to humble themselves before the Lord and that they would no longer be evildoers but meek, controlled by God because they will then inherit the Kingdom during the Millennial reign of Christ with us!

VERSES 12-15

1. We see persecution growing today against those who stand up for the things of God. We should not be surprised by this or discouraged by it. You see, God is in control. And once again, in verses 13 through 15 David gives us the perspective of things as he shares how God looks at their rebellion!

2. Isn't it amazing that as man tries to fight against God he does so by persecuting the people of God. And in their efforts to persecute the people of God they are fighting against God. Let me show you what I mean. Listen to what Jesus said to Paul on the road to Damascus in Acts 9:4-5 where we are told, **“Then he [Saul] fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’”** You see, as Saul was persecuting the church, as he was persecuting Christians, Jesus said that he was really persecuting Him, he was persecuting Jesus, the Lord!

3. It is also interesting on how God turns the tables on the wicked and they get caught in their own trap. And as God listens to their plans He just laughs at the foolishness of what they are doing. You see, God has a way of turning the tables on their evil plans. At great example of this is found in the book of Esther. You remember the plans of evil Haman, who wanted to hang Mordecai on the gallows, impale him for not bowing down to him.

In fact he wanted all the Jews put to death, and he was able to get that decree from the King. But one night King Ahasuerus could not sleep, so they brought out the history books to help him get back to sleep. And they opened these books up to the place where Mordecai foiled an assassination attempt on the King's life. But, for some reason they did not honor Mordecai for this good deed. And as morning approached, Haman is found in the King's court waiting to see the King so that he could get the okay to put Mordecai to death.

And as Haman walks in the King asks him, **“What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?”** Now Haman, thinking the King was speaking of him, said to have the royal robe placed upon him, the royal crown on his head and the royal horse to bring him through the streets of the city for all the people to see and honor. And Haman must have felt pretty good until the King said, **“... ‘Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king’s gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken.’”**

Talk about your bad days, the guy you want dead you now have to honor, and things just got worse for him. The queen exposed Haman’s plan to destroy the Jew’s for which the queen was one. And we read in Esther 7:9-10, **“Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, ‘Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king’s behalf, is standing at the house of Haman.’ Then the king said, ‘Hang him on it!’ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s wrath subsided.”** You are a fool if you think you can outsmart God! Even Goliath laughed and mocked David until God turned the tables and David took off the head of Goliath with his own sword! (I Samuel 17:51).

VERSES 16-17

1. Now from a human perspective, as you read this, it does not seem fair. Why is it better to have less and be righteous, than to have more and be just a little wicked? Because no one is just a little wicked, and in the end they will be cut off and will fade away. They can try and gain the whole world in their lifetime, but in doing so they have sold their soul for nothing.

And the idea here is satisfaction; can we be satisfied in the lot that God has given us? We need to be satisfied because He has given to us what is best. I am not saying we just lay around and do nothing, expecting others to provide for us because the Bible says if you don't work you don't eat. Obviously if there is some kind of physical problem or something like that, that is not what God is saying. But the problem for many is that they act like the wicked in that they try to accumulate all kinds of things and in the end, they have less.

What do I mean by that? If we truly trust in the Lord and rest in Him then what God has given to us we will be satisfied and we will not be running to and fro trying to gain more things. Can we be satisfied in all that God has given to us or do we think He has shortchanged us? How you live out your faith will show where you stand, what you believe!

VERSES 18-20

1. Do we believe that God will provide for us, that He will supply our needs? We need to as Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:19 where he wrote, “**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**” Notice that God will supply all we *NEED* not necessarily all we *WANT* as we give out of the right motives. Learning contentment in whatever God has given to you is the key; it is something you must put into practice in your life. And all of this is based upon the eternal perspective. You see, God knows the steps we will take, He has set them in order, and we will spend eternity with Him. But the unrighteous will vanish away from His presence. Do you want everything that this world can offer you, all the possessions you can imagine or Jesus?

VERSES 21-22

1. We must not be like the wicked with our money and time. God has given to us so much, He has blessed us with so many things and we need to share with others those things that He has given to us. Now many just focus on money and that is not what it is all about. What gifts has God given to you that you can share with the body of Christ? Are you a Sunday School teacher, or are you good at cleaning the church, or maybe the sound or radio ministry, or usher ministry, or worship ministry or youth group ministry and the list can go on-and-on but you get the idea.

I know, some of you think you don't have the time to do these things but I disagree. I have seen this in my own life especially when I was working outside the church. There was no way I should have been able to do all that I was doing and still function but God supplied me with the strength that I needed. And, in those times that I was exhausted, that I thought I could not do it, He saw me through. Can we trust that He will be able to supply all that we need in our lives so that we can accomplish what He wants us to do? I hope so!

VERSES 23-24

1. I love these verses. Notice that David tells us that God directs our steps. Now some of you may not see that in your life but many times God does this in such a natural way that we don't even recognize it until we get on the other side of the situation and see the hand of God organizing the whole situation.

Not only that but if we fall, if we fail, if we get knocked down the Lord does not stand over us and go, "**LOSER!**" I realize some friends and others may do that but our Lord will never do that because He loves us so much. Do you know what He does? He extends His hand to us to lift us up and get us back on our feet again. I love that about our Lord, He never gives up even though we do at times!

2. One more thing and this is important. Too often Christians are unwilling or afraid to step out in faith, to do something for the Lord because they may fail! Guess what, you may fail but that is not the issue. The issue is "Are you willing to step out in faith as the Lord leads, as the Lord directs your steps?"

Let me illustrate it like this, I think this will help drive the point home you might say. Babe Ruth was the first player to hit 60 home runs in one season and he held that record for 34 years. Roger Maris hit 61 back in 1961. Babe Ruth also held the lifetime home run record of 714 for 39 years. That was until Hank Aaron broke it in 1974. Babe Ruth also had another record, he had a career strike out record of 1,330 and he held that record for 29 years. Interestingly enough, the great Mickey Mantle broke it.

I am sure that anyone of us, if we got up to the plate would love to hit a home run but we don't go up to the plate because we don't want to strike out! But as Babe Ruth and others proved, you can't have one without the other! If you want to swing for the fences then you have to be willing to strikeout!

As a Christian, if you want to serve the Lord you have to be willing to fail at times. If you don't want to fail then you won't step up to the plate, you won't get involved in serving the Lord. We need to remember that and when we do strikeout, in a sense, the Lord is there to pick us up so we can get back to the plate and start swinging again! This should give us great comfort. God will pick us up when we fall because we are His children and He loves us. It is as Proverbs 24:16 says, **“For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.”**

VERSES 25-26

1. As I have said, this seems to indicate that David wrote this Psalm in the latter years of life. And through those years he has seen God provide for His people and how blessed they are in that relationship. Does that mean that God's people never lack physical food? I think this is a principle that is played out and David lived long enough to know that God does provide for His people. The key to me is that God does not forsake His people, never has and never will!

VERSES 27-40

1. In these verses we see David contrasting the condition of the wicked to the righteous. And as David does this he seems to take a step backwards and is now looking at the big picture instead of the limited picture of the day. You see, on a day-to-day basis you get a picture that shows the wicked prosper and the righteous struggle but when you look at the bigger picture the wicked are destroyed and the righteous will inherit the land, they will be with the Lord for eternity! Both futures are sure, but the choice is ours and all God is asking for us to do is to put our trust in Him!

And that is exactly how David ends this Psalm as he said, "**And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.**" May we do the same!

PSALM 38

This is another penitential Psalm of David where he has developed some illness, some disease that he feels has come upon him because of his sin. Now we are not certain when this was or what this was all about, but David does see it as God's chastening upon his life. Now some go and say that all sickness is of the devil and you need to be delivered from that demon. Not so. God will use sickness to chasten us at times, and we also must remember that not all sickness is because of sin. It is part of life; we all will die one day. That death process or the entropy law began when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden and has been in effect since that time. Now Christ has restored us spiritually, He has healed us spiritually, and one day we will receive new bodies that will not decay, will not die. But that will not happen till we go to be with Him.

VERSES 1-5

1. I don't think that God chastens us in His "**hot displeasure!**" That is how we respond to others and that is how David might have felt, but it is not the way that God responds. He is in control, He does not lose His cool you might say and blow some steam off. That is not our God! Thus, God is in control and He chastens us out of love. His desire is to draw us back to Him and away from sin.

It is as Jeremiah 3:11-13 says, **“Then the LORD said to me, ‘Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say: “Return, backsliding Israel,” says the LORD; “I will not cause My anger to fall on you. For I am merciful,” says the LORD; “I will not remain angry forever. Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,” says the LORD.”**” God’s desire is for restoration and not destruction. He will never force us but He will chasten His children to get them back on track!

2. Now make no mistake about it, sin has its affects upon our lives. That is what David is showing us here, the results of sin in his life and it not only affected him physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. You see, all sin is foolish and all sin has consequences. But no one is forcing us to commit sin, we have a choice. Look at AIDS and how this spread across this nation and this world because of sexual sin. Now that does not mean everyone that came down with AIDS committed some sin in their life but keep in mind that a persons sin affects many people, even the innocent! And what we try to do today is make people feel comfortable in their sin instead of seeking repentance and restoration!

VERSES 6-10

1. Look at the picture that David is painting of himself. He is very honest as he tells us that he is weak, he is broken and it seems that it took all this to come upon him for him to awaken from his spiritual sleep, to show him his sin. God will do whatever it takes to wake us up to our sin but it doesn't have to take that long if we are willing to repent and get right with Him!

2. We saw back in verse 5 as David is speaking of all that sin has brought upon his life and he said that **“My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness.”** Let's put this in our vernacular. David is basically saying that sin stinks! We need to understand that, we need to let others know of this and we need to let our children understand this. Sin stinks! Too often people get the idea that God has for some reason forbidden this activity and that is why it is wrong, that is why it is a sin! Make no mistake about it, it stinks and that is why God forbid it. It will not build you up but tear you down! There is the joy of the Lord and then there is this dirty stinking sin that wants to destroy our lives. But the choice is yours, do you want to stink or do you want the fragrance of Jesus flowing from your life!

3. David finishes up verse 10 by saying, “**. . . As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.**” Think about this for a minute. When you see something you like, let’s say your wife or husband your pupils get bigger, why? Because you delight in that person! Now if we are delighting in the Lord our pupils should get bigger in a sense as we allow the light of God to fill our lives. But if we are doing things that are not of God, if we are not delighting in the Lord, then our pupils will not get bigger and what we see will grow dim, the light get can’t in!

VERSES 11-12

1. As his friends and family saw what he was going through, they stood their distance. They were afraid of him. Why did they do that? Maybe they thought that they would catch what he has. Now let me say this. You can truly tell who your friends are when you are going through tough times. True friends will be by your side while fickle friends will distance themselves from you. It is as Proverbs 17:17 says, “**A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**” And yes, our friends may fail us but what a friend we have in Jesus, He never fails us!

2. Not only were David’s friends keeping their distance, but David’s enemies sought to take advantage of the situation. They spoke words of destruction and plotted against him.

VERSES 13-14

1. Now this is one that I need to learn and apply to my life and it is a good principle that we all should follow. When the enemy is speaking evil against us, plotting against us, we should turn our ears off and not speak words that will amount to nothing. What happens when we do listen is we become discouraged, anxious, worried and even hopeless. Not only that but when we do open our mouth it usually is a work of the flesh and it is not pretty. Then what can we do to help us during these times so that we are not discouraged, not anxious, not worried or hopeless? Listen to what David did.

VERSES 15-16

1. There was nothing that David could do to help himself and thus, David looks to the Lord to help him stay focused because the Lord is the only one who can truly help. It is as David said in Psalm 39:7, “**And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.**”

2. Do you see what the Lord is doing through all this? He is getting David to lean upon Him, to lean upon the Lord. Remember the story of Jacob; he was a conniver, a schemer, a heel-catcher. He was able to get the birthright and blessing from his brother Esau by his dealings. And for Jacob, he could do anything he wanted, he was a smooth talker and it seemed that everything he touched turned to gold. But Esau was not happy and Jacob had to flee for his life and some 20 years later, when he is returning home he hears that Esau is coming to meet him. Well, Jacob had his plans, he was going to do this and do that, but he understood this was serious; Esau had 400 men with him!

That night Jacob wrestled with the Lord all night and Jacob would not give in, he refused to surrender until the Lord took his hip out of joint. Now Jacob was broken, there was no scheming he could do to get away from his brother and the Lord said to Jacob that his name is now going to change. You are not going to be schemer any longer but you shall be called Israel or governed by God. In other words, in his weakness he was made strong and that is what the Lord has to do with us many times because we think we can do it on our own and we don't need Him! God wants us to lean on Him just as David was willing to do here.

VERSES 17-20

1. Here you can see that David is truly sorry for his sin, that he is repenting of his sin before the Lord. As you look at the Scriptures you will find that there are two kinds of sorrow. There is the sorrow that speaks of the person being sorry they got caught doing wrong, which is worldly and meaningless. The other type of sorrow and the one we see here with David is one that leads to repentance. This is a godly sorrow and draws us back to God. Paul picks up on this and he put it this way in II Corinthians 7:9-10, **“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”**

You see, repentance is more than a feeling, it is an action word and it speaks of turning around. The person is moving away from God by their actions, they repented and came back to God that led to salvation or SOTERIA (so-tay-ree'-ah) in the Greek, and it speaks of more than just being born again, it encompasses all that God has for us, that our walk is not hindering God from pouring out His blessings upon us!

Redpath sums it up like this as he wrote, "How sorry do you think you have to be? What is the purpose of your sorrow for sin? It is to bring you to trust in the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not your sorrow that cleanses you from sin, but His blood. It is the goodness of God that leads a man to repentance. Has your sorrow for sin led you at one time or another fling all the burden of it at the feet of a crucified, risen Savior? If it hasn't, anything short of that is what Paul here calls sorrow that leads to death." David truly gave it to the Lord, laid it down at His feet and turned from his sin to the living God!

2. Now this is a tough one for us because we don't understand how people can act that way. You see, don't think that just because you are doing good people are going to rejoice. Jesus went around doing good and what did they do to Him? They killed Him! Thus, if you do things to be recognized by men, you will be disappointed. But if you do things unto the Lord, it won't matter how they respond because your trust, your hope is in the Lord!

VERSES 21-22

1. Notice that David did not end this Psalm with his adversaries coming against him, but he cries out to God and looks to God for deliverance from this situation. Why do we want to look anywhere else, for nothing else or no one else will be able to help you like the Lord!

2. Let me close with this. If you are in sin this evening, if you are suffering because of it and your soul is restless, take comfort in what David did. David not only repented of his sin but he understood, he knew that even during the most difficult days that he faced, the Lord was there with him because the Lord loved him and cared for him. God feels the same about you. There is nothing that can separate you from the love of God and He is with you always, never forget that! The God that David served was His Savior and He is our Savior too!