

THE TRUTH OPENS OUR EYES Psalm 36 Bill Turner

Introduction:

1. **Many are not worshipping God Today, They Won't even think about God Today...**
 - a. When a person is obsessed with themselves, they don't have time for anyone else, even God
 - b. And It can be discouraging to focus on the Sin and Selfishness of the world...
2. **But God is opening our eyes with Truth—**
 - Not just to the to the Neurosis of the Wicked,
 - But it also to the Mercy of God, and the Blessings of the Righteous.

When We Live By Truth We Live Under the Shelter of His Wings

The Truth Opens Our Eyes to...

I. THE NEUROSIS OF THE WICKED (v.1–4)

A. THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF GOD (v.1 NIV)

–Having a Heart so callused they are self-absorbed to the point of denial

1. **The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom, word means: reverence**
 - a) Without any reverence for God, they are Self-Absorbed in Self-Righteousness
 - b) Nothing is Ever Their Fault... They Have Excuses for Everything
 - c) and They Blame Everything on Everyone Else...
2. **“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,**

But the Lord weighs the spirits. (Proverbs 16:2)

B. THEY FLATTER THEMSELVES (v.2 NIV)

–Having displaced God, they become the center of their own universe—and they believe their own lies

1. **They Flatter themselves that they are smarter than God**
2. **They Flatter themselves that there is no heaven or hell**
3. **They Flatter themselves that they are always right and can do no wrong**
4. **They Flatter themselves about how good they are**
5. **They Flatter themselves that they Deserve Respect from others & from God**
6. **Nothing is Ever their fault because they can never do anything wrong!**

“Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm; but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves.” —T.S. Elliot

C. THEY SPEAK LIES AND EVIL (v.3)

–Since their heart is too arrogant to admit or reject sin, the wicked person is no longer able to speak truth, be wise, or do good.

1. **EX: Up Until Hezekiah was sick on his death bed...He was a great King**
 - a) He Tore Down Pagan Idols and Instituted a Spiritual Restoration in Israel
 - b) But at the end of his life God told him through Isaiah to get his house in order,
 - c) Hezekiah prayed so hard that God gave him 15 more years to live.

2. **But after he got well again, ambassadors from Babylon came to visit**
 - a) Hezekiah with a sob story of how worried they were about Hezekiah!
 - b) One touch of flattery melted Hezekiah's self-awareness and self-defenses,
 - c) and he felt important again! These important people care about me! I'm Important!
3. **After they left, Isaiah asked Hezekiah... (Isaiah 39:3–6)**
 - a) **TODAY WE WOULD SAY:** Well, Hezekiah was going through a hard time... and it was stressful to be a king.... and he had a hard childhood...
 - b) We Make Excuses for People So We Can Feel Like We are Compassionate
 - c) **TRUTH: Hezekiah Cared More About What the ENEMIES OF GOD Thought of Him than What God Thought!**

(1 John 2:15) 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.

D. THEY MEDITATE ON EVIL (v.4)

–Without any restraining influence from what is good, the wicked person becomes so abandoned to evil that he or she plots it by night as well as by day

1. **They Are So Self-Absorbed They Obsess on The Lusts of Flesh and Eyes**
 - a) **Headline This Week: Report Shows How ‘Queer Creators’ Spent Years Pushing the LGBTQ Agenda in Children’s TV Programs’**
 - b) **[CHART] The Report was from Entertainment Insider:** “The rise of gender-diverse representation isn’t a coincidence,” Insider reports. “Shows created and run by queer women, trans and non-binary show runners are largely responsible for the influx of non-binary and trans characters in kid’s animation.”
 - c) In 1983 a Children’s show about a teddy bear... was debuted as the first implicitly gay character.
 - d) After that, just 7 shows featuring LGBT characters were released in the 1990’s
 - e) 11 were produced in the 2000’s and 48 in the 2010’s
 - f) From 2017 to 2019 alone, we found a 222% increase in representations of LGBTQ identity. In 2019 a total of 74 newly-debuted or confirmed LGBTQ characters made their way to the screen.” (*Entertainment Insider 6/10/21*)
2. **They Want Your Kids and they will not stop until they get them**
3. **They Want Us to Support Their Depravity—and Normalize Their Neurosis So they can feel better about themselves**

E. NO LONGER RESTRAINED, THIER LIFE IS SET ON A COURSE OF EVIL

–In the end the wicked person cannot reject what is wrong, even when it is apparent to everyone that it is wrong—they are set on a course of self-destruction

1. **Their Lies and Evil Grow Worse and Worse (2 Timothy 3:12–13)**
 - a) By Believing Lies — They Are Lying to Others and Lying to Themselves
2. **In the Long Run—The Selfish Life is the Doomed Life (Keller Quote)**

“Nothing makes us more miserable than self absorption, the endless unsmiling concentration on our needs, wants, treatment, ego and record. In addition, self centeredness leads to social disintegration. It is at the root of the breakdown in relationships between nations, classes, and individuals. Mutually self giving relationships is impossible in a world in which everyone is stationary, trying to get everything else to orbit around them.” - Timothy Keller

II. THE LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD (v.5–6)

After a journey into neurosis of the wicked—

—David finds relief when he turns his thoughts to God!

A. MERCY: His mercy is astronomical (v. 5a) It Reaches to the Heavens!

1. HEBREW: chesed (hesed). God's Steadfast Love

- a) It is translated: Steadfast Love, Everlasting Love, Loving Kindness, Mercy, loyalty
- b) hesed is the agape love of the O.T.

2. God's Mercy is so vast that the earth cannot contain it!

3. It is astronomical! It reaches to the heavens!

B. FAITHFULNESS: His faithfulness is vast (v. 5b).

1. God's Faithfulness is unfailing! — God Will Never Let Us Down

2. His Mercy and Faithfulness is So Far Beyond Our Comprehension that it is above the skies and atmosphere

C. RIGHTEOUSNESS: His righteousness like the highest mountains (v. 6a).

1. In my early twenties, my friend Phil and I had big plans to climb the highest peak in the lower 48 states...

- a) Mount Whitney is higher than Mt. Rainer, Mt., Hood and Mt Shasta
- b) We read about it and started buying gear like rope and ice picks and snow boots and ice crampons for our boots
- c) We made it up until it was solid snow and ice and just ran out of steam.
- d) We headed back down the mountain defeated

2. Although the Mountain Defeated us—We both chose to become Preachers

- a) And Now We Preach About the Infinite Attributes of God that are Higher than the Highest Mountains!
- b) The Love and Mercy and Faithfulness of God that is Higher than Mt Hermon, who's snows feed the Sea of Galilee and Flow Down the Jordon River.

D. JUSTICE: His justice reaches as far as the depth of the seas (v. 6b).

1. God's Judgements and His Justice are so deep they delve to the deepest parts of the earth

2. That Means NOTHING happens without God's Notice

3. Nothing is Hidden from God—even in the deepest parts of the human heart

E. PROTECTION: His love preserves all life (v. 6c).

1. In Spite of Man's Selfishness, God loves His creation.

2. He even notices when a sparrow falls to the ground (Mt. 6:26; 10:29).

3. God not only Created all life—He loves and provides for all life!

III. THE BLESSINGS OF THE RIGHTEOUS (v.7–12)

A. LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD (v.7)

1. In the World You Will Never Be Enough...

- a) It's Exhausting Trying to Please All the Selfish People of the World!
- b) You Can Never Be Woke Enough, or Perfect Enough or Beautiful Enough or Rich Enough, or Popular Enough For Them
- c) If Your Living Your Life For the Acceptance of Others—You Will be Miserable
- d) They Are NEVER Satisfied—You Will Never Be Enough
- e) When You Live For Their Approval Then You Die By Their Rejection

2. We Can Trust God's Love and Kindness!

- a) But God Knows We Aren't Perfect—He Saves Us By His Grace!
- b) We Can Find Rest Under the Shadow of His Wings!
- c) We Can Find Rest in His Grace and Love and Protection!

3. He Wants Us to be Saved! (Psalm 103:13–14)

B. GOD'S LOVE PROVIDES FOR OUR DEEPEST NEEDS (v.8)

1. There is a Restless Emptiness Apart from God

- (1) A Gnawing Discontent that Will Not Let Us Rest
- (2) We Are Perpetually Dis-satisfied, Perpetually Discontent

2. We have a God-shaped Void That is Infinitely Deep because it can only be filled by an infinite God!

- a) But God Fulfills This Search for Significance, Search for Meaning, Search for Purpose, Search for Love!
- b) *"We are restless, until we find our rest in Thee" (Augustine)*

C. GOD ALONE PROVIDES THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE (v.9)

1. By Him All Things Were Created and All Things Consist

2. He is the Fountain of Living Water! (John 7:37–38)

3. Rev 21:6 He Gives the Water of Life Freely!—He Paid the Cost at the Cross!

D. GOD IS LIFE AND LIGHT—AND HE GIVES US LIFE AND LIGHT (v.9b)

1. God Gives Life and Light — the Opposite of Darkness and Death

2. You Are Alive in Christ! And in His Light—We Can See Light!

3. The World is Dead in Sin—They Cannot See in Darkness

E. GOD'S WORD OF TRUTH OPENS OUR EYES! (v.10-12)

1. To Our Need for God (v.10)

2. To Our Weaknesses and Needs (v.11)

3. To the End of the Wicked (v.12)

CONCLUSION:

1. It's Discouraging and depressing when we see all the wickedness in world...
2. But God is calling us to Open Our Eyes with the Truth of His Word
3. To Take Our Focus Off the Wickedness of the World...
—and Focus on the Faithfulness of God!

*The Truth opens our eyes to the Neurosis of the Wicked,
But also to the Loving Kindness of God, and the Blessings of the Righteous.*

When We Live By Truth We Live Under the Shelter of His Wings

(Psalm 36:7)

*How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!
Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.*