

BLINDED BY PRIDE

How does someone become wicked? Most of us, at some point in our lives, have seen a news report describing some terrible crime or heinous act perpetrated by an individual and wondered how does someone get to that point mentally or psychologically. David evidently pondered this as well. He wrote a poem to express his musings on the subject - Psalm 36.

The first section of the psalm (verses 1-4) describes the mindset of the wicked. They either never learned to trust the LORD or the trust they once possessed has gotten push aside by their growing trust in themselves. Pride and selfishness overpower objectivity to the point where they see nothing wrong with their choices. What is good no longer matters, only what is “good” for them. Their own pleasure and success become the highest virtues and goals, and they will do whatever it takes to whomever is in their way to achieve them.

In contrast, David shows the character of the LORD (verses 5-9). Yahweh’s love, covenant loyalty, righteousness, and justice are limitless and immeasurable. God does not show favoritism, either. His providential care extends to the great as well as the lowly. He is the true source life and light.

Finally, the poet closes with prayerful request (verses 10-12). He asks that God continue to be who he is and do what he does. David prays that divine justice be carried out consistently.

We should pray for God’s will to be done. We should constantly be exposed to God’s word so we do not become self-absorbed and blinded by pride. Love the Lord with all your heart instead of trusting in yourself. Allow scripture to align your moral compass and guide you through life.

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