

Psalm 36 (A Psalm of David)

The man who does not fear the LORD

¹ The call to sin is very strong for a man with an ungodly heart since he has no fear of the LORD. ² He doesn't despise sin, so he compliments himself when he discovers new and pleasurable ways to get involved in sin. ³ When he speaks, his words are wicked and deceitful. Because he has chosen an ungodly lifestyle, he has abandoned wisdom and cannot do anything that is good in God's eyes. ⁴ He lies awake on his bed planning more sinful things to do. He has chosen a path through life that is not good because he has abandoned wisdom.

The man who does fear the LORD

⁵ LORD, Your tender love and kindness fills the earth and the heavens, and Your faithfulness reaches to the ends of the universe. ⁶ Your righteousness is as high as the tallest mountain, and Your judgments are as deep and unfathomable as the depths of the deepest sea. ⁷ The tender love and kindness You show to Your children is a most precious thing, and as a result, Your children take refuge in the blessed and holy name of Jesus Christ¹ where they find perfect protection. ⁸⁻⁹ Since You possess the fountain of life, You invite Your children to drink their fill from the river that provides all of the good and delightful things You have stored up for the righteous. When they learn more about who You are, what You are, and how You work in the affairs of men, the light of their understanding turns on brightly. ¹⁰ LORD Jesus, please continue pouring out Your tender love and kindness upon those who know You as savior, and show Your righteousness to those who do what is right in Your sight.

Keep me from joining sinners in their sinful activities

¹¹ LORD, keep me from becoming proud, or being adversely influenced by sinners to the point where I would do something evil and break fellowship with You. ¹² I don't want any part of it, because those who commit sin are destroyed by the results of their sin, and they are incapable of recovering from the disaster. They will, as we say, crash and burn.

¹ In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used for "LORD."