**Clips from Psalms**

Psalms 103:19-20

"Jehovah has established his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the Lord, you his angels, that are mighty in strength, that fulfill his word, hearkening unto the voice of his word."

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**PSALMS CHAPTER 36**

Wickedness of Men and Lovingkindness of God

For the Chief Musician

A Psalm of David the servant of Jehovah

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Give diligence to present yourself approved of God; a workman that needs not to be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Disciples of Christ are students of God’s word. We are to read and understand what the Holy Spirit has revealed through revelation by careful examination of any given Bible text. It is not hard to misinterpret a text of scripture if great care is not exerted. Some believe the Bible to be a book of cryptic codes next to impossible to break. We are seeing; however, through a study of Psalms that these beautiful chapters are great treasuries of knowledge that help us in our daily walk of life. We are seeing the value of type and antitype. We are seeing the value of examining cross references. We are seeing the value of equivalent text. Psalms 36 helps us see the value of examining the way New Testament authors used Old Testament text. If I can see the way authors such a Paul uses Psalms 36:1 then I can understand what David meant when he wrote this Psalm. Paul, being an inspired apostle of Jesus Christ, did not misunderstand or misuse any Old Testament text. Once we get this simple system of understanding Bible text down and apply these skills to every Bible text we gain understanding. Understanding is exciting and comforting and that is what God expects of us (see John 8:31-32).
Psalms 36:1 is quoted by Paul at Romans 3:18 in the context of proving that all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Paul sets the tone for our study of Psalms 36. David is including himself as the wicked of verse one. You and I are the wicked and foolish who, when we sin, act as though God does not even exist (Paul also quotes from Psalms 14:1 at Romans 3). David is once again displaying a spirit of meekness by acknowledging every man’s need for the love and mercy of God (see Psalms 25). All of mankind has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). To not acknowledge this fact in one's life is to fail at salvation and to fail to see the beauty of God's mercy and love.

Psalms 36 is pointed and penetrating to the human soul (see Hebrews 4:12). The Psalm uncovers our human heart and lays our shameful conduct in the open for all to see. There are three principle lessons learned by studying Psalms 36. First, we learn humility. We learn that we are no different than any other man or woman that has ever lived on this earth in that we all sin just like they all did. We have permitted sin to speak deeply within our souls. We have all been troubling souls that have dealt with ourselves in arrogance rather than fear and lowliness. Secondly, we learn that there is a great contrast between man and God. God is perfect and his love is unending. While man wallows in the mire of sin God is high and lofty in love, righteousness, and justice (see Jeremiah 9:23). Thirdly, we learn that God's mercy will cover our sins if only we would acknowledge our faults and live righteously through obedience as Paul teaches in the early chapters of the book of Romans.

The treasures of the book of Psalms continues to be unearthed. Don't let your life go by without having studied this marvelous book!

John E Robertson

God Knows those that Belong to Him

"Howbeit the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his: and, Let every one that names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness"

(2 Timothy 2:19)

Introduction

Before the world existed God's standard of righteousness and justice was in place (see Proverbs 8:22-31). Our eternal and Almighty God had foreknowledge of man's willingness and or unwillingness to follow his laws (Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:3-7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15). It has never been the will of God that any one man or woman would perish in their sins yet many choose the rout of sin and death (see Ezekiel 18; 33; John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:19). God has always known that there would be those who would serve him through thick and thin in life. God's true people love him when they are poor or rich. God's true people serve him no matter if they are sick or healthy. God's true people never quit no matter what circumstances they face in life. God places his mark or seal upon these people and he knows who they are (see 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14 and Revelation 7:2-3). This lesson shall examine a few characteristics of these people that God knows. Our duty is to make sure that these characteristics describe us. There is a place called hell for those who do not obey the laws of God and it is real (see Mark 9:43-48).

I. Those who belong to God are Meek rather than Self Sufficient

A. God, as man's creator, is qualified to direct man's path in life (Jeremiah 10:23).
B. Some have made up their minds to reject God's words (Acts 7:51).
C. God knows the meek and lowly (Psalms 7:3-5; 25:4-5, 9-12; Luke 22:42; Galatians 5:21-23).

II. Those who belong to God Follow His Instructions for Salvation rather than Making up their own Path

A. If you believe and love Jesus you will follow his commandments (John 3:36; 14:15).
B. A firmly established pattern for salvation in Acts (see Acts 2:38-44 - Believers are those who follow God's instructions for salvation; i.e., Hear, believe, repent, confess, baptism, and faithful living).

III. Those who belong to God conform their lives to Christ (Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9)

A. Christ's laws are respected and reverenced (Galatians 6:2 and Colossians 3:17).
B. Christian Virtues (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Conclusion

Does God know that you are his? Do you bear his seal of approval? Do you bend your will to his rather than self? Have you obeyed the one gospel of truth? Do you serve God no matter the circumstances of life? God knows the answers to these questions about you! What do you plan to do about these things?