



river west church

The Relentless Love of God

Psalms 36

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The title of our series is "Knowing God Through the Psalms". That is our focus. We seek to know God. We don't want to simply know about God, but to know Him personally, intimately, in relationship.

Psalms 36 brings us to the very heart of knowing God, because Psalm 36 is about His steadfast love.

Any true knowledge of God must begin with a personal experience of His love. The steadfast love of the LORD is one of the most fundamental and enduring traits of God (Ps. 36:5, 7, 10; Ex. 34:6; Ps. 136). The Hebrew word is so rich with meaning that it is difficult to translate. Depending on the Bible you read, you may see "steadfast love", "loving-kindness", or "unfailing love". The idea is that God's love never gives up. It's not just love or kindness. It's relentless love and kindness.

When we talk about seeking to know God, what we really mean is that God is seeking us. God is after us. Today, we're going to see why this relentless love is such good news.

Relentless Pursuit

Psalms 36 doesn't begin with love. It begins with a dark portrait of sin. Sin blinds. Sin flatters. It turns us into stubborn, deceitful, narcissists. Not a pretty picture. When you read the opening of Psalm 36, you might find yourself wondering what this has to do with love.

The first and most loving thing that God can do is to tell us the truth.

We tend to read verses like this and think of other people. It's human nature (see verse 2). The wicked person is "that guy over there"! But God keeps directing His scalpel back to my heart, and to your heart. He's relentless about it precisely because He loves us.

Verses 5 and 6 describe God's towering answer to sin. "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds...man and beast you save, O LORD" (vss. 5 & 6). How does God overcome a wicked human heart? He overwhelms it with His massive and unfailing love. That's the power of Psalm 36. But there's something else that this Psalm invites us to see about God's love.

Relentless Blessing

God wants to do more than just save you from sin. He wants to bless you with true spiritual blessings. Not the temporary trappings of this world; the meaningless stuff that constantly vies for your adoration and worship, but ultimately leaves you empty. Psalm 36 is a description of the abundant, eternal blessings of a relationship with God. When David talks about experiencing the love of God, he uses words like abundance, delight, life, and light. It almost sounds too good to be true. It is too good to be true without the relentless love of God that He has shown us in Jesus.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Today, my prayer is that you will experience the relentless love of God. God is after you. He's not going to give up. If you need to be convinced, look at Jesus. Look at how far God has gone through Christ to love you.