

***There is a great deal of injustice in the world.***

***I did a little digging and was amazed at the millions of dollars that unscrupulous people steal from the elderly through scams and deceitful schemes.***

**People with no conscience and have no issues with stealing someone's life savings, all for their own personal gain.**

**Or what about those who prey upon children and hurt them and sell them for unthinkable acts.**

**Or the pastor who misuses his office to swindle innocent people out of their money by selling miracles. Preying on people who are desperate and looking for a miracle from God?**

**All of these are people have no real conscience or integrity.**

**They are, as our text describes, lovers of transgression with no fear of the Lord.**

**They prey on others and in their own arrogance and are proud of their trickery.**

**But where does the believer go to seek refuge from such things?**

**To whom does the believer run to when this world and its treachery become a little too overwhelming?**

**We run to God, who is our refuge in a sinful and fallen world.**

***Please turn to Psalm 36.***

**We are continuing our series discussing nine characteristics of God's faithful loving-kindness.**

**Three weeks ago we started by looking at God's faithful loving-kindness in salvation.**

**Next, Pastor Ben discussed God's desired response to His faithful loving kindness.**

**Last week we looked at how God's faithful loving-kindness creates and sustains life for the believer.**

**This week, we see that God's faithful loving-kindness is a refuge in a sinful and fallen world .**

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**1. It seems like there is little justice in the world.**

**Psalm 36:1-4 (ESV)**

Transgression speaks to the wicked  
deep in his heart;  
there is no fear of God before his eyes.

For he flatters himself in his own eyes  
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;  
he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

He plots trouble while on his bed;  
he sets himself in a way that is not good;  
he does not reject evil.

Only the faithless who have no fear of God are mentioned in this first section.

The Psalmist describes those who are in love with themselves and their deceitful schemes. It consumes their thoughts and they are proud of it. This is a rebellion that is truly dangerous, one that is described very strongly in Scripture.

**1 John 2:15-16 (ESV)** 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. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world.

**Ephesians 5:6 (ESV)** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them;

**Study Question:**

- A. Have you ever experienced this type of person; can you relate with the first four verses?**
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**2. God's faithful loving-kindness is a safe place.**

**Psalm 36:5-9 (ESV)**

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the

heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
man and beast you save, O Lord.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
The children of mankind take refuge in the  
shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your  
delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light do we see light.

In this section, only God and His faithful loving-kindness are mentioned.

I thought of a dear sister in Christ named Corrie Ten Boom when I read this text. A Jewish Christian who was placed into a concentration camp along with her sister Betsy during the 2nd world war. She testified many times, upon surviving that horrifying experience, that it was the Love of God revealed in Christ Jesus that sustained her.

I can't imagine what she went through, but her faith and perseverance inspires me. It makes me think that if someone who went through that horror, can place their faith and trust in God's steadfast loving-kindness, than so can I.

### **Study Questions:**

- A. Why is it so important for us as believers in Christ Jesus to remind ourselves about God's faithful loving-kindness?**
  
  - B. Read Revelation 19:6-10 and discuss the similarities of Psalm 36:8-9.**
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### **3. God's justice will prevail!**

In this section the faithless, the psalmist and God are brought together in a plea for help and justice.

#### **Psalm 36:10-12 (ESV)**

Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who  
know you, and your righteousness to the upright

of heart!

Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,  
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

There the evildoers lie fallen;  
they are thrust down, unable to rise.

Here the Psalmist makes a plea for the righteous to remain in the presence of God's faithful loving-kindness. In the presence of God's covenant love, the arrogance of our sinful nature cannot have a foothold in our lives. In humility, according to God's grace and mercy, we remain in the presence of God, in that presence, we are reminded that one day, at Christ's 2nd coming, God's justice will prevail!

Revelation 19:11-16 reminds us of that day, when God's justice will win the day!

Revelation 19:11-16 ESV,

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

But for those who are in Christ Jesus, the marriage supper of the Lamb will be their inheritance, and will live eternally in the presence of the Triune God in a place with no more sin, no more injustice, a place where death is no more!

**What We Take Away:**

1. We cannot discern reality (the truth) without God's Word!
2. God is our refuge, our safe place in times of need.
3. At Christ's second coming, all will be made right and God's justice will fill the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21:1-7)

**Study Questions:**

**A. Read through the "take-aways" and discuss how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you as to how God wants you to apply this text to your life.**