

THE VOICE OF SIN

PSALM 36:1-4

Introduction:

The New American Standard Version offers an alternative reading of the Hebrew Text that gives clarity to the meaning of these sobering verses.

Instead of the oracle being a word from the Lord that the Psalmist hears like a prophet, transgression is personified; it is transgression that is giving the oracle. What we hear is not an oracle of God, but rather the voice of rebellion and sin.

The voice is heard in the heart. This means that the whole tragic scene of evil that the Psalmist describes began when the person began listening to the wrong voice. Instead of listening to the voice of God speaking through His word, the person is listening to the voice of his own rebellious nature. When you listen to the voice of sin, the outcome is predictable.

I. THE VOICE OF SIN DISCOURAGES FEAR OF GOD.

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Sin and Satan say the same thing; they are in agreement—“You will not surely die.”

II. THE VOICE OF SIN ENCOURGES YOU TO IGNORE THE VOICE OF YOUR CONSCIENCE.

In most cases the voice of sin will override the voice of conscience.

“For he flatters himself in his own eyes, when he finds out his own iniquity and when he hates.”

III. THE VOICE OF SIN APPROVES SINFUL BEHAVIOR.

“The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit, he has ceased to be wise and to do good.”

The voice of sin will make you feel good even when you are doing evil. It will bring a certain amount of satisfaction and temporary fulfillment. But in the end, it is all a lie.

IV. THE VOICE OF SIN OFFERS FOOLISH VALUES.

“He devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil.”

Are you confused? Does the voice of sin sound a lot like the voice of self that you have heard all of your life? Do not be confused—they are the same! The New Testament word for this inner voice is “flesh”, the sinful nature within you doing its normal thing.

The apostle Paul heard this voice in his own heart. He testified, “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.”

(Romans 7:11)