

DEEP LOVE
Friday, March 16
Reading: Psalm 36

Psalm 36:5 Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies...9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Samuel Trevor Francis was born on November 19, 1834. As a child he loved music and joined the church choir at age nine. However, during his teen years he struggled with his faith. One night, he thought about committing suicide while walking a bridge over the Thames River in London. That moment as he looked at the water below he had a spiritual encounter that renewed his faith.

Francis later became a merchant in London but his real passion was writing hymns and preaching the gospel. One of the hymns he wrote is still popular today. It reads:

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

Psalm 36 describes both the spiritual cancer of sin and the “deepness” of our God. The wicked do not fear God; they shrug at God. It is not so much that they don’t believe in Him as it is that He doesn’t matter to them. Their preoccupation with themselves drives them farther away from God to the point that they can no longer tell right from wrong. Instead of wisdom they are consumed with their own sinful lifestyle and don’t even realize how wrong they truly are (36:1-4).

In contrast to the claustrophobic, self-absorbed nature of sin, the love of God is higher than the heavens, majestic as the mountains, and inexhaustible as the ocean (36:5-6). God’s love is like a land of endless delights, filled with food to satisfy and rivers to refresh (36:7-8).²

Psalm 36:8 gives us two crucial words to describe what God wants to give us: life and light. The word “fountain” refers to the source of water. God is the Source of life. The Hebrew word for “light” is first used in Genesis 1:3 when God said, “Let there be light.” He is the Creator of light and only through His light can we hope to see the path He wants us to take.

These are used by the apostle John in the New Testament to introduce us to the Lord Jesus Christ:

John 1:4 In Him (the Word) was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus is our life and light. The sin and wickedness of this world can never overpower the love of Christ. Are you struggling with sin? Look to the Light of the world! (John 8:12). Do you need direction and guidance? Look to the Word of Life! (1 John 1:1-3).

¹ <https://www.songsandhymns.org/people/detail/samuel-francis>

² To explore this more see: Timothy Keller. The Songs of Jesus, p.70-71.