

# Psalm 36:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

## Analysis

Speech reveals heart condition—'iniquity and deceit' characterize the wicked's words because his inner life is corrupt (Matthew 12:34). The phrase 'left off to be wise' indicates apostasy, a deliberate turning from known truth. This isn't ignorance but willful rejection of wisdom previously possessed. Ceasing to 'do good' follows ceasing to 'be wise,' demonstrating that right thinking precedes right acting; abandoning truth inevitably produces abandoning goodness.

## Historical Context

Israelite wisdom tradition (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) emphasized the inseparability of knowing truth and doing good. David here portrays someone who once walked wisely but deliberately chose folly, making their guilt inexcusable.

## Related Passages

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

1. What truths have you once embraced but are now tempted to abandon?
2. How does maintaining wise thinking protect you from moral compromise?

## Interlinear Text

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דְּבָרִי גַּם אֵלֶּה וְמַרְתֵּה כִּי לְבַשְׂכִּיל  
The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit he hath left off to be wise  
H1697 H6310 H205 H4820 H2308 H7919

לְהַיִלּוּבָה:

and to do good

H3190

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 55:21** (Word): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

**Psalms 10:7** (Sin): His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity.

**Jeremiah 4:22** (Good): For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

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