

PSALM 139 2024 – The LORD’S Goodness to the Faithful!

6/29/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

PSALM 139 - Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart

(Vs. 1-6) – God’s Omniscience- All-knowing!

Psa 139:1 For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

Psa 139:2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

- The psalmist is aware of how completely and thoroughly God knows him and knows all about him even as God knows you and knows all about you! The Bible said, “Everything is open and naked before him with whom we have to do. That is, you don’t hide anything from God.
- In the New Testament the book of Acts chapter five, in the early church they were having this move of the spirit. People were selling their property and they were creating sort of a communal life within the early church. One of the couples Ananias and Sapphira had sold their property. They brought a portion of the money and laid it at the feet of Peter, who said, “Ananias, why is it that you have conspired in your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? He rebuked him and he said, “You haven’t really lied to man, you’ve lied to God. The idea that a person can deceive God, can hide from God issues of his life, you just don’t understand God.
- When David said, “You understand my thoughts afar off” in the Hebrew that does not imply that God is way off in some corner of the universe billions of light years away and I’m way over here but from that distance God understands my thoughts. The Hebrew indicates that God understands my thoughts in their origins. What David is saying, “Lord, you know my thoughts before I think them, you know the origins of my thoughts.”

Psa 139:3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

- That acknowledgement and realization of how thoroughly and completely God knew about every facet of his life, and of mine!

Psa 139:4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

Psa 139:5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

- This goes back to you encompassed my path. I’m surrounded by God. He’s behind me, he’s in front of me and his hand is upon me.
- In other words, He’s omniscient, He surrounds us. He’s in front of us, he’s in back of us and his hand is upon us. Our lives are totally encompassed by this God. I never arrive at any point but which God has not preceded me there. As I look back I can see how the hand of God has been on my life every step.

Psa 139:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

(Vs. 7-12) - God’s Omnipresence- All-presence!

Psa 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

- Now we are going to deal with the omnipresence of God. God is everywhere. How can I escape him?

Psa 139:8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

Psa 139:9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Psa 139:10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

- Remember the case of Jonah? God called Jonah to go to Nineveh. Jonah, being a true patriot, did not want to go to Nineveh, which was their enemy. God had given him a message of judgement to give to Nineveh. Forty days and God’s going to destroy Nineveh. Jonah was afraid that if he went there and preached he might be successful that they might repent and God wouldn’t destroy them. So he decided to flee from the presence of God. He tried to hide from the call of God. He went down to Joppa and got a ship that was going to Tarsus, which was the end of the world at that time.
- Jonah discovered that he could not escape from the presence of God out in the Mediterranean. God stirred up the Mediterranean in a storm, they threw over all the cargo. Finally, one of the sailors looking for anything else in the hold to throw over board found Jonah fast asleep. They woke him up

and they said, “Man, you better start calling on your God, we are in big trouble.” Jonah said, “Just throw me over and it will all be over. I’m a prophet of God.” They didn’t want to do that, they did their best to try and ride out the storm but they saw that it wasn’t going to happen. They finally threw Jonah overboard. Suddenly there was a great calm and you know the rest of the story. Trying to flee from the presence of God by taking off to Tarsus.

- Our problem is the lack of the consciousness of His presence. That’s what we need. What we need is to be more aware of the fact that I cannot escape His presence. When I do those things that I think are being done in secret, God is there. I do not hide from God. I cannot hide from God. I cannot escape His presence. Where can I flee from Your presence? The answer is you can’t. We live, we move, we have our being in God.
- Jonah found out that God was down in the depths of the sea when he was there in the belly of the whale. He cried unto God, “I cried unto the Lord out of the depths of hell I cried and He heard me.” God’s presence down there in the depths.

Psa 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

Psa 139:12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

- An interesting thing about light is that we have the infrared by which what is to our eyes dark with the infrared light you can see in a dark room. Armed forces have these special glasses that will pick up the infrared light and with these glasses you can see in the dark and they use them a lot in the night fighting. We’ve discovered that it’s possible to see in the dark if you have the proper glasses that are equipped to help you see with the infrared rays. With God it doesn’t make any difference whether it’s dark or light, it’s all the same to Him. I’ll wait until night and then slip out where God can’t see me. No, He can see you just as well in the darkness of night as He can in the noon day sun.

(Vs. 13-18) - God’s Omnipotence- All power!

Psa 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

- You are in control of my life, You are the one who is holding the reigns of my life.
- Now we are going back to even before I was born God knew me. We are getting now into this area of God’s knowledge. From the eternal, before I was ever formed, before there was ever any substance God knew me. God said that to Jeremiah. He said, “Before you were ever formed I knew thee.” In Jeremiah the first chapter verse five “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee and before you came forth out of the womb I set you apart and ordained you as a prophet to the nations.” God spoke of Cyrus, the work that he would do a hundred and fifty years before he was ever born, before his mother was born. God spoke about Cyrus and the way that God would use him to set the children of Israel free from the Babylonian captivity.
- Fearfully and wonderfully made, think of that. Creating me so that my body can mend itself. What tremendous wisdom in creation.

Psa 139:14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

- So looking at my human body and all my marvelous attributes and aspects of the human body, truly I am fearfully and wonderfully made. The capacities of the body; sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch. I marvel at the design, the body’s capacity to mend itself.

Psa 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

- When I was being formed within my mother. When those two half-cells came together and they began that process of reproduction and I was starting to be formed in within my mother’s womb, God knew all about me.

Psa 139:16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- I was in the formative state within my mother’s womb and God saw me.
- *In Your book they all were written.* God made a list of all my bodily members being there.
- *The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.* I think of this scripture in light of abortion. Though the humanist would pass it off as just tissue, they’re always careful not to call it a

baby but a fetus, they refer to it as just a tissue. It is interesting, that's not the way God looks at it. God sees it as a being, as a person, from the moment of conception.

Psa 139:17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

- One of the things that I constantly marvel at is the fact that God thinks about me. Now I find that as something that is just absolutely astounding and amazing that God would think about me. Look at how many billions of people there are in the world today. Yet God thinks about me! Think of governing and guiding this whole universe, the awareness of God of the universe and life. Jesus said, "There is not a sparrow that falls to the ground but what your father doesn't take note of it." When I was a kid shooting sparrows with slingshots and BB guns as an afternoon practice, we gave God a lot to make note of.
- God knows interesting trivia about you. For instance, He knows how many hairs you have on your head, interesting trivia. He knows all about us, He thinks about us but He thinks about us all the time.

Psa 139:18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

- Someone has estimated that there are some ten to the twenty-fifth power grains of sand in the earth. That's a lot of thinking. In fact, if God thinks about you a billion times every minute he will be thinking about you for several thousand years.
- *When I awake, I am still with You.* The psalmist realizes that the wicked are going to be cast into hell. God is going to destroy the wicked.

(Vs. 19-22) - God's Sovereignty - All sovereign

Psa 139:19 Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

- Therefore the psalmist addressing the wicked makes a declaration.
- *Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.* The bloody men, the murderous men actually, the men who shed blood.

Psa 139:20 For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take Your name in vain.

- I sort of shudder the way some people speak of God contemptuously, wickedly. In checking Google this morning, regarding the posting of the Ten Commandments by Louisiana; and probably Tennessee, Oklahoma, and others, it was so revealing. There were a half dozen or so articles regarding the subject. Every one of them was so totally negative and against that! Not one good thing was said!

Psa 139:21 Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

- It really grieves my heart to read some of the articles that people write against Christianity, against purity and morality and against God. Now Jesus said to love your enemies, I find that hard. I find it a lot easier to join with David and just hate them that hate the Lord.

Psa 139:22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

- With no approval whatever of their conduct; with no sympathy for the evil they do; with no words of apology for their sinful acts; with entire disapproval and condemning. Hate the sin! Love the sinner!

(vs. 23-24) David's Prayer!

Psa 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

Psa 139:24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Go back to the first verse, "O LORD, you have searched me and you do know me." In those first six verses he was speaking about the fact that he knew that God knew him better than he knew himself. Who was it? Socrates that said to his students, "Man, know thyself." Self-knowledge is the most difficult knowledge you will ever attain and once attained it will probably some of the most painful knowledge you've ever had to know the truth about yourself.
- The Bible speaks so much of those who have deceived themselves, the truth is not in them. People are diluted, people are deceived. God said to Jeremiah, "The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked who can know it? But I the Lord do search the hearts." So Lord you have searched me, you have known me. In God's searching me and knowing me and knowing everything about me, knowing my thoughts even in their origins David said, "Such knowledge is too great for me I cannot attain it." David admits his inability to really know himself.

- Knowing that God has searched me and that God knows me, he ends up praying “Lord search me and know my heart, try me and put me through my tests and know my thoughts.” It’s not here for the purpose that God might know me. Lord let me go through the trial that I might know myself. It is in trials that I really get to know myself. When the pressure is on, when I’m going through a real testing or a real temptation then is really when I know myself. The purpose of trials is so often to reveal the truth of yourself to you. God talking about the forty years that the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness he said, “To prove you, to know what was in your heart.” Now God knew what was in their hearts but they didn’t. So God put them through all of that testing so that they could see what was in their hearts. God also puts you through testing so that you can see what’s in your heart. Do I really trust in the Lord when the chips are down or do I begin to connive and try to work it out myself? God reveals.
- Usually our opinion of ourselves is higher than what we really are. Getting this exalted of “I’m not too bad” Jesus said that that arises from the fact that we compare ourselves with each other. “You are they which do compare with each other but in this your error.” You look at me and say, “That guy’s got a lot of flaws. I know I’m not perfect but I know I’m better than he is.” You compare yourself with me and you look pretty good. Compare yourself with Jesus and then how do you look? I’m not the standard of comparison, he is. So we usually, because we are comparing with each other, we get this exaltation of ourselves.
- Lord, put the test on so I don’t see the truth so I don’t rely upon myself and so I realize that I must rely upon God at all times. I don’t trust in myself, I trust in God. I don’t look within myself for strength, I look without unto God for my strength and my help. I don’t become self-reliant, I become God-reliant. That is what David is praying, you search me and know my heart, try me, know my thoughts Lord and then you see if there be any wicked way in me. Lord let it be exposed, let me see that in my life that is not in line with what you want, not in harmony with you. Lead me in Your everlasting path.

HE LEADETH ME — Joseph Gilmore, sung by George Beverly Shea (2:30)

*Psa 139:24b And **lead me** in the way everlasting.*

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.*

*Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll’wer I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.*

*Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom, Sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
By waters still, o’er troubled sea, Still ’tis His hand that leadeth me. (Refrain)*

PRAY FOR OUR NATION’S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi - India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Bola Tinubu - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin - Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY;

ISRAEL:

FOR STATES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! LOUISIANA! TENNESSEE!

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