

Wonderfully Known

12-27-20

Psalm 139:1 (ESV)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

The Lord “knows” his own. God has intimate knowledge of us. HE has intimate involvement in our lives. We are not alone!

Psalm 139:2–6 (ESV)

- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

God hedges in his own for the purpose of protection (“behind and before”). This thought receives further amplification in: “you have laid your hand upon me.” The placement of the divine hand signifies protection and blessing. This knowledge of God discerns and discriminates “in favor” of those who are loyal to the Lord. God is actively involved in our lives. This is beyond our grasp, our understanding. Not only is God involved in our lives, but we also cannot escape HIS presence.

Psalm 139:7 (ESV)

Where shall I go from YOUR Spirit?

Or where shall I flee from YOUR Presence?

The “Spirit” of God is parallel with “Presence” of God. God’s presence is everywhere to protect HIS children. God is absolutely sovereign over creation.

Psalm 139:8–12 (ESV)

- ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
- ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,”
- ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

We have the assurance of God's all-encompassing presence and protection. Also, this means evil cannot escape God's mighty presence and ultimate judgement. **The presence of God is everywhere; hence God knows all things in all places. Man cannot hide himself from the all-seeing eye of the Lord, whether in the highest heavens, the deepest recesses of the earth, or in the depths of the sea. The knowledge or discernment of God can never be limited to any particular place, because God’s sovereignty extends to the whole created universe. The Lord’s hand will protect God’s child wherever he may be. There is only light with God, and his light brightens up the darkness so that we can say, “The night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to God”.**

God is the Creator, and his creative concerns include individuals! Not only did God create the heavens and earth, HE created our inward being.

Psalm 139:13 (ESV)

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

The Lord has formed the individual as a spiritual being (my inmost being),” and a physical being (you knit me together). All beings owe their existence to God. As believers, we know that the Lord has formed us for a purpose.

Psalm 139:14 (ESV)

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

We should be excited that God wonderfully formed us. The Hebrew can be legitimately translated ‘I praise thee, for I am awesomely wonderful’; ‘For all these mysteries I thank you: for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works.’ All of God’s “works” are “wonderful,” but the believer senses more than any other part of God’s creation that he is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” We live with a personal awareness of God’s gracious purpose for us. God is concerned with the individuals whom he has formed for his purpose. Therefore, praise is the proper response to God’s grace and purpose for us. The child of God sees God’s presence everywhere and experiences the joy of God’s watchful eye over him.

Psalm 139:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven (**complex patterns and colors**) in the
depths of the earth (**the hiddenness of the womb**).

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

Even when unborn and little more than a physical being in the womb, the Lord had a purpose for the undeveloped embryo. The main emphasis is on our pre-natal fashioning by God! This is a powerful reminder of the value God sets on us, even as embryos. The idea of purpose comes more clearly by the Lord's writing in "the Book" which refers to God's knowledge and blessing of HIS child "all the days" of his life. This is the background for the statement made by Paul in the NT.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

We are HIS workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them.

We are "Created" for good works, which God prepared "Beforehand" for us! Therefore we say:

Psalm 139:17 (ESV)

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

The “thoughts” of God are too magnificent, too numerous, and too exalted for man. It is impossible for the creature to comprehend the Creator! God’s plans, Jesus’ plans are beyond man’s ability to comprehend. We need God to speak to understand God. Understanding this, we desire nothing less than conformity to God’s will, because we know our way leads to destruction and God’s way leads to life and fellowship with God. Therefore, we cry out:

Psalm 139:23–24 (ESV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous (**offensive**) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (**the way of God**)!

Do we desire to hear God and walk with HIM enough to ask God to search us and know our heart? We need a **heart for God to hear God.**

First, we need to understand God’s one and only way to eternal life.

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.