



Cover to Cover: (Ps 139—God's Omniscience)

July 15

Psalms Overview

Context: This Psalm is often referenced as an example of God's omniscience (omni- "all" and science- "knowledge"= all knowing) and omnipresence (omni- "all" and presence= all present). However, this Psalm is so much more. A key word is to know, the intimate knowledge God has of the believer (and the believer of the Lord). This is both an encouragement but also a challenge to faithful living.

First, think about Pastor's sermon from this past Lord's Day A.M.:

- Who incited David, God or Satan? How can we benefit from a more biblical view of the subjects this questions raises?
- What sin was involved in David undertaking a census?
- Why is it better to fall into the hands of God than man?
- Though the second half of David's reign was troubled and in calling the census he sinned, how does David's reign end differently than Saul's?

Read: Ps 139

Questions:

1. V. 1- How should we marvel at God's omniscience and omnipresence, especially his intimate knowledge of His people?
2. How would it be a sin to attempt to be omniscient or omnipresent? How do we attempt to do this in everyday life? How can we find rest by acknowledging who He is and who we are?
3. Vv. 2-4- In what ways are we known by God? Why should we marvel at that? (Hint- Can we know God fully? Isa 55:8)
4. V. 5- Far from a negative restrictive phrase, how is this verse a reassurance to the believer? Have you ever laid a hand on someone, or visa versa? How is/was this an encouragement

5. V. 6- All of this intimate knowledge is "too wonderful." What do you think this means?
6. *Switching from knowledge to presence the following verses express how the believer cannot escape such knowledge. There is no-where in God's creation where he will not be present to hold and care for the believer.* What illustrations are given in vv. 7-16?
7. One cannot miss the relevance of vv. 13-16 to the issue of abortion. How so?
8. With v. 16 (for wonderfully made could read "set apart"), how does this verse confirm other verses like Eph 1:4 and Ro 8:29?
9. Vv. 17-18- What does the Psalmist make of all of this? (*Try counting all of God's thoughts, you would fall asleep from exhaustion like counting sheep! This is what is meant in v. 18. We sleep and God doesn't. He is always with us*).
10. Vv. 19-22. What do the wicked think of God's omniscience and omnipresence?
11. Thinking back to the sermon from Ps 70, how should we understand v. 22b? (*Thinking of a righteous hatred, I would also add it is not vindictive*).
12. Vv. 23-4- The Psalmist is not claiming perfection here, rather in seeing the end of the wicked, he does not want to be counted among their number. As such what two things does he ask God to do?
13. How important is self-examination; confession and repentance in the Christian life (Ja 5:16)? Why might we try to resist this? In light of 1 Jn 1:9; Ro 8:1 and God's omnipresence and omniscience, and His care for His people, why is this a foolish thing to do?