

“Search Me, O God, and Know My Heart”

Pastor Guy Gray

Psalm 139

A Different Angle on the Sovereign Majesty of God

Last week in Psalm 93, we saw God in His sovereign majesty and power. God is infinitely above all things. His rule extends over all history, all kingdoms, all nations—He brings His purpose to pass in the midst of our fallen, chaotic world. Psalm 93 is a “big picture” psalm. It causes us to think about the sovereign majesty of God as it applies to the huge issues and conflicts of the world all around us. But the beauty of the Psalms is that they cover the full range of our experience in life. While some psalms give us the big picture of God and His sovereign power in the world around us, others speak intimately of the workings of God in the depths of our hearts and in the details of our daily experience. This is where Psalm 139 takes us. Like Psalm 93, it gives us an incredible picture of the sovereign majesty of God, but this time the awesome portrait of the reality of God is applied to the inner workings of our hearts at the most intimate level.

God’s Intimate Knowledge of Your Life, Both a Comfort and a Threat!

Psalm 139 is one of the most beautiful and loved of all the psalms. It is also one of the most misunderstood. It is loved because it portrays to us the nearness of God and His intimate knowledge of every detail of our lives. We take great comfort in realizing that God is always with us, no matter what. We delight to know that “who we are” is not by accident. God himself designed each of us, individually, according to His purpose and plan. We marvel to know that God’s thoughts on our behalf are innumerable and He is walking with us every step of the way in life. This is only half the story. In Psalm 139, the other side of the story is that there is a real level of discomfort portrayed in this psalm as well. In verse 5 it says, “You hem me in.” There is a sense of being trapped by God in this verse. In verse 7 it says, “Where can I go from your Spirit or flee from your presence?” This verse actually implies a desire to get away from God, but that is not going to be possible! As David thinks about God’s intimate knowledge of his heart and mind and every detail of his life, he feels a bit claustrophobic! He feels trapped. It’s like he wants some personal space. Perhaps he wants the “freedom” to come to God, have a relationship with God and serve God, but in his own time and on his own terms. David realizes this is not the way it works with God. There is no hiding from God. No getting away from God. There is a decision that must be made—to resist Him or to dive into a deep personal relationship with Him, fully and willingly.

Meanwhile—There is Trouble in Our World

Always, in the background of the psalms, there is trouble. Even in Psalm 139 we find it. Verses 19-22 suddenly turn our attention and we find: “the wicked,” “bloodthirsty men,” “adversaries” and “those who hate God.” These verses remind us that we live in a world of trouble, a world of real evil. Our reflections about God and our relationship with Him are not just “personal spiritual ideas” to delight us in our leisure time. Ultimately we are always going to have to come down on one side or the other of the struggle. We are always either moving towards the Lord at heart level, or we are moving away, towards evil. All of this matters in the extreme!

Give God “Permission”

At the end of the Psalm, something very beautiful and important happens. David fully opens his heart to God. In verse 1 David says that God has searched him and knows him fully (whether David likes it or not!) In verse 23 David actually asks God to search his heart. It’s like David “gives God permission” to do what he knew God was going to do anyway. This is the key and it makes all the difference in the world! It is the difference between being reluctant or resistant in our relationship with God, or being open and willing. This is maturity—when we want to give our hearts to God fully and without reservation. When we do, God does an amazing work in our lives. That is when we begin to find the healing and the leading of God in our lives in new and powerful ways. Can you read through Psalm 139 and then pray with a sincere heart the prayer of verse 23-24? That is the goal. Do it today and watch for God’s good work in you life.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

Spend time this week reading, praying over, and meditating upon Psalm 139. As you do, allow time for reflection. What truths is the Lord revealing to you through His Word?

You Know Me

We explored this week the comfort and sometimes the threat of God's Sovereign knowledge of our lives. To what degree do you take comfort in the "nearness" of God in your life? To what degree and under what circumstances does God's intimate knowledge of your heart cause you discomfort?

Resistant or Willing?

At the end of Psalm 139, David opens his heart fully to God and asks to be searched and known. As you read verses 23 & 24 again, what is David's hope in this? What does David want to experience with the LORD? Do you share David's desires? Why or why not?

Upcoming Events

SATURDAY 8/11 thru 8/18

High School Mission Trip
to Culesac, Idaho
Contact Josh for details

SUNDAY 8/12

All Church Service. 10am
@ Lakeridge
High School Performing
Arts Center

FRIDAY 8/17

A Night Out...Movie on the
Lawn, Willy Wonka and
the Chocolate Factory
8pm-10pm @
RWLG, No Childcare.
Contact Mary Halvorson for
details.

SATURDAY 8/18

Ministry Prayer Time
8-9:15am @ RWLG

SUNDAY 8/19

Normal Church Services
resume @ Lake Grove
9am, 11am & 5:30pm

UPCOMING!

Financial Peace University

A new class is starting in
September! Sign-ups in
the lobby today & next
week! For more details,
see Julie Messenger or
call her at 699.2226.