

# The Omniscience and Omnipresence of God in our lives

Psalm 139

## 1) God understands us (vs. 1 – 4)

- How often do people misunderstand us and a conflict arises due to that misunderstanding?
- With God there is no misunderstanding at all
- The word “searched” means to have penetrated or to have examined intimately.
  - The searching is thus an in-depth search that goes far beneath the superficial to the depths of our beings
  - It is as a hole is drilled deep into the earth to study the underlying rock or when a modern day surgeon inserts a microscopic camera into a patient to study the inner parts of the patient to understand the problem that he is dealing with
  - However God searches deeper than that as he sees and understand the unseen aspects of our spirit and soul
- In this way God knows us intimately and understand us perfectly
- He knows our passive and our active lives – our sitting and our rising
  - He is forever watching over us whether we are at home resting or whether we are going out
  - He isn't only watching over us physically but he knows the very motives of why we are doing what we are doing.
  - He knows what we are feeling when we do what we do.
- He perceives our thoughts from afar
  - “from afar” can be used in both space and time
  - Thus God not only knows what we are thinking but it doesn't matter where we may be for God to know them – He is always close to us but we may be running from Him
  - He also knows all of our thoughts from before, at present and what we will think
- God knows what we are going to say before we say it
  - God has foreknowledge of, not only our actions, but of our talking as well.

## 2) God is present where we are (vs. 5 – 12)

- David is using parallelism in verses 5 – 10 to describe the Omnipresence of God and His hand upon us
- God has hemmed us in – He has laid siege to us
  - When a city is under siege it is completely surrounded by an army. There is no way of getting in or getting out
  - God is behind to prevent us from running away and running back to our past lives, past sins, past bondages
  - He is before us to prevent us from running on ahead of Him
  - But hemming us in means that He completely protects us from attacks from all sides – front and back.
  - His hand is upon us where we may be
    - To have His hand upon us for protection, to uphold us when we are weary, to discipline us
- It doesn't matter where we go we cannot escape the presence of God
  - Jonah tried to flee to the opposite side of the sea but soon discovered that God was still present in His fleeing.

## 3) God has known us before conception (vs. 13 – 16)

- The words “inmost being” is the Hebrew word for kidneys which, according to Spurgeon, were supposed to be the seat of desires and longings.
  - Hence God is the one who not only created our physical bodies but He created the very desires and longings within us.

- These, of course, have been corrupted by sin but when we are in Christ we are a new creation and our longings and desires will have also been recreated in our new birth.
- God knit us together in our mothers' womb
  - He has woven us – entwined us – so that we are well made that we will not easily come apart
  - He has made us so that we will be able to endure the knocks of life
  - But it also means that he protected us whilst we were still in the womb.
  - His protection didn't start when we came to know Him but when He made us
- We are fearfully and wonderfully made
  - God took care to make us as the crown of His creation
  - If we merely think about the awesome detail of our beings it leaves us with wonder and awe at the work of God
- We were not hidden from God when we were created in the secret place – the womb
  - Woven together in the King James is “curiously wrought” but either way the original means “to embroider”
  - We were embroidered with much care to be the design that we are.
- God knew us but more than that He had already determined the purpose of our lives beforehand.
  - Not only the overall purpose of our lives but all the days of our lives.

#### **4) God thinks about us (vs. 17 – 18)**

- It is incredible enough to think that God knows us intimately, has known us from before we were conceived and knows everyday of our lives before they happen.
- But even more so is the fact that He thinks about us and His thoughts are good
  - We would often expect God to think bad thoughts of us because we let Him down so often but His thoughts are precious i.e. valuable as rare stones
  - The other incredible thing is that He doesn't only think a couple of thoughts for each of us but His thoughts of each of us outnumber the grains of sand
  - If we consider that there are about 6 billion people that would be a lot of thoughts.
- We, along with David, ought to meditate on the awesome thoughts that God has of us.

#### **5) God's judgment and the believer's separation from wickedness (vs. 19 – 21)**

- This section almost seems out of place in a Psalm of praise but after considering the absolute goodness of God there is a place to consider the righteous judgment on the wicked who have absolute no consideration for God
- We ought not to walk in the way of sinners (Psalm 1: 1)
- Paul also exhorts the church to expel the wicked from among them (1 Corinthians 5: 13)

#### **6) A call for God to search our hearts (vs. 23 – 24)**

- But after reflecting on the wicked David calls out to God to check His own heart that there be no wickedness in Him
- After considering the goodness of God we should not become judgmental of others and be hypocrites but rather to have an open and honest heart to call God to search our hearts for:
  - Anxiety
  - Any offensive way
- It is a call for God to test us to see if we are true to Him as He is true to us
- It is a call to lead us in the way everlasting.
  - We ought to endure all things in life because ultimately we have eternity with God in mind.