



THE PASTOR'S PEN

September 19th, 2016

A Favorite of Mine

The scope of Psalm 139 is a favorite of mine. It is as broad as the horizon and as personal as God's concern for a newborn baby. As we enter this fall season, I invite you to read the psalm and discover a God who knows you and cares for you.

I'm in awe when I think how well God knows "when I sit down and when I rise up" (Psalm 139:2). God knows my thoughts and is acquainted with all my ways (verses 2 & 3). God knew when I was being made in secret, knit together in my mother's womb (verses 13 & 15). I am indeed overwhelmed by God's knowledge and presence in my life. It makes me want to both praise God and hide from him. I want to praise God for the wonder of my life: "I am wonderfully made." But such knowledge on God's part also makes me want to hide. Indeed, the thought of God knowing all my thoughts, knowing all my words, and watching over all my actions is overwhelming. Jesus demonstrates to us by his life, death and resurrection, that God is a forgiving God. The psalm reminds - and the cross and empty tomb - validates that even as we are aware of our shortcomings, we are comforted and blessed by God who knows us so well and still loves us.

In addition, there is no place we can go and be out of the presence of God. "Where can I flee from your presence?...If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast" (verses 7, 9-10). The images are so powerful, so comforting. Even before we are born, we are known by God and held in God's heart. We are wonderfully made and God looks out for our well being.

As we move forward together, I recommend Psalm 139 to you for your own deeper journey into the presence of God, who as our Lord Jesus assures us, loves us and ever goes with us.

Passion and Peace,

Pastor Mark