

Psalm 139 “God Is”

What do you think about God? Who is He? What does He know? Are there things He doesn't know? Where does He live? How big & strong is He? What we think about God & our relationship to Him determines what we think about everything else that makes up our busy world—other people, the universe, & God's will. Wrong ideas about God will ultimately lead to wrong ideas about who we are & what we should do, & this leads to a wrong life on the wrong path toward the wrong destiny. The right knowledge of God is essential to a fulfilled life in this world. David contemplated God & wrote for us a psalm whose message can only encourage us to know who “God Is”, which is today's title.

A. God Knows Everything! (1-6) O Lord, You have searched me & known *me*.² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.⁴ For *there is not a word on my tongue, But* behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.⁵ You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.*

Know what this tells me? That God is like God! So often we try to create God in our own minds, & it is rarely accurate. He is bigger, stronger, smarter, better & more wonderful than we can even imagine! He knows everything! No wonder so many pray before they take an exam! He knows more than even Santa Claus! When we sit, sleep, when we are good or bad. But, here is what I love. God is not just smart. He not only knows information. He knows ME! Really knows me, &... He knows YOU! The verb “search” means “to examine with pain & care.” *The Jewish people used this word to describe digging deep into a mine, exploring a land, & investigating a legal case.* Our friends see the outside, but God sees the heart, & we cannot deceive Him. The fact that God knows us intimately is stated in vs **1, 2, 4,14, & 23**.

Jeremiah 17:9 *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And [a]desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

I realize for many of us this is comforting or it can be pretty scary! Look again at the text, He knows ME, when I sit or stand, & even my THOTS! Yikes! We all think things we should not think. The driver you wish was dead, the beautiful woman you lusted after, the neighbor you that was stupid. Of course these are bad, & we should repent, even those things we did not DO anything, we that it! But I love that He knows all this, & He still loves us. Those bad thots do not make Him love us any

less. He loves us just as much as if we were perfect! Why? Because as a born again believer, He sees us as perfect. How? In His Son Jesus, we are perfect & righteous in His sight! Nothing we can do makes him love us more or less! Have you slipped into sin? Know He loves u just as much as before, but know He also wants you to repent. Don't ever make God's grace cheap. That means to think u can sin, & it does not matter because He will forgive you. Don't ever think that way. That is exactly how the devil wants u to think. Remember Adam & Eve in the garden?

If you are not born again, this is not true for you. Yes He loves you, but you are not IN Jesus. Good news, I will give you this opportunity at the end of the message to KNOW Jesus! I am talking about a personal relationship, not religion. Jesus wants to be your best friend! I hope He already is, but if not, today is the day. Keep listening.

He goes on in v. 3 to say, He knows all our ways. The good, bad & ugly. **v. 4** tells us, "You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord." NLV There are many times He is also trying to STOP us from saying these things. I got an email from someone weeks ago. It was pretty harsh. I wanted to reply, but I believed that God wanted me to wait at least a day before responding. I waited longer than that, & before I replied, the person emailed again, apologizing for the other email! Thank you Jesus! **v. 5** reminds us He is with us, before & behind us, protecting us. He is always there.

It reminds me of David, who wrote this Psalm. He was called a "man after God's own heart". David had a hard life. Yes, much of it was his own fault. But David repented, asked forgiveness, & was so close to God. Often he was on the run from Saul, Absalom & others who wanted to kill him. But he knew God was with him. It was not easy, but knowing this gave him great peace. Do you have this peace in your life? Do you know & believe that God is with you? Are you walking in His ways? Where are you today in your walk with Jesus? Are you closer than ever, or drifting away? *Up in SB some of our friends have drifted away?* Maybe you have been saved many years. Are you going through the motions? Showing up at church? Maybe even reading your bible? Is the passion gone, is the fire flickering? Is there more smoke than flame? We have this amazing God who loves us supremely that should make us want to live 100% for Him. Every thot, breath, action. Giving our \$ for His kingdom, our time, & talents! **He knows everything.**

This should give us great peace when something we do not expect happens. A bad report from the Dr. Remember, God knew about this before even the Dr. did! He loves you, has a plan for your life. Sometimes we get off track, so His plan is to get us BACK on track! You lose your job, & wonder, how am I going to do it without a paycheck? Again, God knows. He is not in heaven saying, "oh no,

how did that happen?!" Maybe he has a better job waiting for you. Maybe He is trying to get you closer to Him, in prayer? Even a flat tire, it is never a surprise for God. He knows everything.

B. God is Everywhere! (7-12) ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, 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 fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; ¹² Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are both alike to You*.

David continues. God is everywhere. We cannot run away from him or hide from him! Remember Adam & Eve in the garden, after they ate the Guava? They knew they had sinned so they were hiding from God. Gen 3:9 God says 'where are you'? It is almost funny. He knew exactly where they were. Maybe like when your child or grandchild were hiding from you, & it was obvious they were hiding behind the sofa! God even asked them if they had eaten from the guava tree? He wanted them to confess their sin. When we sin, God wants us to confess & repent, which means do our best to never do it again! 2x He will help us!

v9 reminds me of Jonah. He did not want to go to Nineveh, so he tried to run away from God. He went to the Med (not club med) got in a boat going the other direction. Remember where he ended up? In the belly of a great fish for 3 days. Can we run from God? He is relentless in His love for us. Even if we try to run from Him, He will always be reminding us He is there, through friends, sunsets or even fish! I suggest you do not run from God, but TO God!

Another one this reminds me of is David. After he slept with Bathsheba & killed her husband, he thought he was off the hook? That he could hide this from God. No way. God always knows. Think of it this way. He is right there, when you are thinking of stealing from your boss, or looking at the photo on the internet.

Finally I think of Moses, who killed the Egyptian who was abusing his fellow Hebrew. He thought no one saw him do it & buried the body in the sand. Later on in **Numbers 32:23b**, it says.

"your sin will find you out."

Guess who wrote Numbers? Moses! He learned the hard way.

There are great benefits too! Think about when you are afraid? God is with you. I remember walking alone at night in the snow, & hearing the barking & growling of dogs! I quoted

Isaiah 41:10 - *“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”*

When we hear a report from the Dr. that it is cancer? When I cut my finger off 4 years ago, God was there the whole time! When my mom died a 2 years ago, God was with her, & our family. He is there when your kids are rebellious, when someone you loved, died, even when you got deported. He is there if we want Him to be or not. But if we are not looking for Him, we may not realize He is there. He is here, right now. He is speaking to your heart. Worship Him, surrender 2 Him, live for Him. Repent from your sin. *U will never regret truly following Jesus!*

C. God Made Everything. (13-18) **“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.”**

With all the debate about abortion, this is fascinating. I believe what the word here says. I hope you do 2, as it is God’s word, not mine. He knew us in the womb! That means we were alive before we were born! If we were alive in the womb, to kill it is murder! We think, who would kill a nu born baby? Sadly, 1000’s die in the womb everyday. Abortion is murder. At least 2 other passages make this clear as well,

Jeremiah 1:5 - *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”*

Job 10:8–12 - *‘Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me. Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? Did You not pour me out like milk, And curdle me like cheese, Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews? You have granted me life and favor And Your care has preserved my spirit.*

I have often thought our birthday should be 9 months Before we were born. So instead of June 24, my REAL birthday would be September 24, which is about the time I was conceived. This makes sense to me! This was the day I began. He formed my parts, the ones you can see, & the inward ones. God does not make mistakes either. So, many of us wish we were different. Taller,

straight hair, curly hair (dark hair!), thinner (was that God's fault?). We really should be stoked just how we are, because this is God's plan for us. He does not make mistakes. I remember a friend made a comment on how ugly he thought a girl was. She is God's creation. She was beautiful in many ways. Physical beauty maybe the least important! Of course, we should also take good care of what He created! Our grandson Otto was born with genetic issues. Some of them you can see, some you can't. But he is exactly who God made him. His parents believe that he is God's gift to them, we believe it too. We also believe that God has great plans for Otto's life! (Ehud? Jud 3 Courson)

v. 16 indicates He knows exactly how long we will live. Of course He does. But we don't. So we need to live each day for Jesus. When I had backslidden I used to think, one day I will come back to Jesus. We are not guaranteed tomorrow. If we are foolish, tomorrow could come even sooner! We all know people who died too young. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice & be glad in it! Each morning we should be asking God, what have YOU planned for me today? Then we should do it.

Look again at **v. 17**. God thinks about you. Courson said this is God's postcard for us. Front is a picture of a beautiful sandy beach, the back simply says, "thinking of you". He uses the plural here. He is thinking about you ALL THE TIME. The v. continues to speak of the SUM of these thoughts. A math term, adding up all those thoughts. In the New Testament, even better. Then He says if He counted His thoughts towards us, it would be more in number than the sand! (Bring sand). I think this is a general statement saying He really thinks A LOT about us. Imagine how many grains I have here? Imagine all the grains of sand just in Rosarito, all of Baja & Cal. Every coast, island, lake. That is a lot of sand. If He is thinking about us, do you think He loves you?

Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

How often are we thinking about Him? He not only thinks about us, He is praying for us! Heb 7:25,

Romans 8:34 - *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

1John 2:1 - *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

So God made everything, but more importantly, He made you. Do you know why? To have a relationship with you. To be your friend. Do you have that relationship with Him? Is He your friend?

If not, today, in just a few minutes is your opportunity! But what about the rest of us? How is that relationship with Jesus? Is it REAL on Monday, Tuesday, etc? Is it real at work? Do you come to church like you are doing God a favor? Is that how you would treat a real friend? Do you spend time with Jesus in prayer & in the word each day? Some here are wondering how little they can do for God & not be on His bad list? We should be asking, what more can I do for you Jesus? Could we ever do too much? What has He done for us? We shared communion, reminding us of His death, burial & resurrection. That is what He did for you & I! David was said to have a whole heart for God. His son, Solomon, a half heart, his grandson, Rehoboam, no heart for God. Not only should our passion & desire for Jesus GROW, but our kids & grandkids should be influenced greatly by seeing it be real.

D. God is all righteous. (19-24) ¹⁹ Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. ²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take *Your name* in vain. ²¹ Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, & know my heart; Try me, & know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*

Seems a bit odd that these verses are included here. But so often we only want a loving God, not a righteous one. The reality is He is both loving & righteous! The reality is Jesus spoke more about hell than He did heaven! Most of us like to act like there is no hell, if we truly believed in hell, a place where people go & suffer in fire forever w/ weeping, wailing, & gnashing of teeth. If we really believed in hell, we would probably try a bit harder to convince our family & friends to follow Jesus. We love the promise of heaven, but hell is one HOT reality!

Gentiles were not neighbors to them. = hostile, hate, detest. They had one saying, "if a Jew sees a Gentile fallen into the sea, let him by no means lift him out." They considered Gentiles fuel for the fires of hell. God did command their forefathers to drive out the Canaanites, & other "ities", as they took over the Promised land. Those ancient inhabitants were among the most vile, corrupt, & depraved known to history. They offered human sacrifices, even burying their own children alive! It was part of God's wrath on them, in bringing Israel to Promised Land. It was one thing to defend the honor & glory of God, by seeking the defeat of His enemies, but another to hate people personally as our own enemies. God is righteous, holy, & just. He loved Adam, but also cursed him, loved Cain, but punished him, loved Sodom/Gomorrah, but destroyed them, loved Israel, but allowed her to be conquered & exiled. Remember, this is a Psalm of David. He dealt with the

wicked chasing him, tormenting him, for years. At the same time, even though he had 2 perfect opportunities to kill King Saul who was trying his best to hunt David down to kill him, David would not hurt the King. So, even though David says these things, I do not believe that God still wants us to hate sinners, but to love sinners, & hate the sin. In the Sermon the mount, Jesus said, ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, & sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

Yes, it is difficult to love rebellious sinners and still hate their sins, but we need more “holy hatred” in this day when blatant sin is a popular form of entertainment.

Psalm 11:5 - *The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.*

Psalm 45:7 - *You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed; You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.*

Psalm 97:10 - *You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.*

Amos 5:14-15 - *Seek good and not evil, That you may live; So the LORD God of hosts will be with you, As you have spoken. Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts. Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*

Romans 12:9 - *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

Romans 19-21 -

So, David says in 21, “Do I not hate those who hate Thee, O LORD?... 22 I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies. Then in v. **23**, he asked God to search his heart. “to search or try” in v 23 means “to test metal.” Why? Maybe he sensed that he may be off. David, **Psalm 7** and **Psalm 35**. David opens his heart completely to God. Maybe he realizes that God knows everything, including his heart. David was called a man after God’s own heart. We see that heart here of a man that wants to be open to God, willing to change. To cut out any sin in his life, & allow God to lead every step of the way. To even help him love sinners, if that is what God wants.

That IS what God wants. It can be hard, but He wants us to love sinners, but HATE sin. Gotta love it. I want that to be my life, do you want that in your life? I have to think that is why you came to church today? To become more like Jesus, to have Him make the adjustments to your life, less sin, more light, living 100% for God. Not 50%, not 90%. Do you need to make some changes? At work? Home? On the computer? With your wife? Kids? In your neighborhood? w/ Jesus?