

DAVID

The Prayers of the King

Pastor's Bible Study 2020

By Dr. Bob Fuller

Episode 3: To Be Known By God

January 22/23

Psalm 139, Psalm 8

- I. Who knows you better than anyone else? What if they told everything they know about you?
- II. Knowledge of God and Knowledge of Ourselves
 - A. *“All the Wisdom we possess, that is to say true and sound wisdom, consists of two things: knowledge of God and of ourselves.”* John Calvin, The Institutes of the Christian Religion, I.1.1.
 - B. Calvin on Psalm 139: *In this Psalm David, that he may dismiss the deceptive coverings under which most men take refuge, and divest himself of hypocrisy, insists at large upon the truth that nothing can elude the divine observation—a truth which he illustrates from the original formation of man, since he who fashioned us in our mother’s womb, and imparted to every member its particular office and function, cannot possibly be ignorant of our actions. Quickened by this meditation to a due reverential fear of God, he declares himself to have no sympathy with the ungodly and profane, and beseeches God, in the confidence of conscious integrity, not to forsake him in this life.¹*
- III. David: Known By God
 - A. “A Man after His own heart.” (I Samuel 13:14)¹⁴ *But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, ...”²*
 - B. We don’t really know the context of this Psalm
 - C. But we do know this: ***“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”³***

PSALM 139

- IV. GOD’S OMNISCIENCE (139:1–6)
 - A. **God knows what we do** (139:1–3). The Good the Bad and the Ugly of David
 - B. **God knows what we think** (139:2, 3b)
 - C. **God knows what we say** (139:4–6)

¹ Calvin, J., & Anderson, J. (2010). [Commentary on the Book of Psalms](#) (Vol. 5, p. 206). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Sa 13:14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Sa 16:6–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

- i. ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. ... ⁴
- ii. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. ⁵

V. GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE (139:7–12): God is always with us.

- A. **He is in heaven** (139:7–8).
- B. **He is in the place of the dead** (139:8).
- C. **He can be found by the farthest oceans** (139:9–10): God's hand will guide and support us wherever we go.
- D. **He shines forth in the darkness** (139:11–12): Darkness and light are the same to God.

VI. GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE (139:13–24): God can do all things for us.

- A. He schedules each day of our lives before we are born (139:16).
- B. He records our every day in his book (139:16).
 - i. Ephesians 1: 3-6: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁶
- C. He thinks wonderful and innumerable thoughts about us constantly (139:17–18).
- D. David's request (139:19–24)
 - i. "O God, if only you would destroy the wicked!" (139:19–22)
 - ii. "Search me, O God, and know my heart" (139:23–24): He wants God to test him and point out anything that offends him.

VII. Conclusion: Charles H. Spurgeon:

"Self examination is not the simple thing which, at first sight, it might appear. No Christian who has ever really practiced it has found it easy. Is there any exercise of the soul which anyone of us has found so unsatisfactory, so almost impossible, as self examination? The fact is, that the heart is so exceedingly complicated and intricate and it is so very near the eye which has to investigate it, and both it and the eye are so restless and so shifting, that its deep anatomy baffles our research. Just a few things, here and there, broad and open, and floating up on the surface, I may discover; but there are chambers receding within chambers, in that deepest of all deep things, a centers heart, which no mirror human investigation ever will reach, it is the prerogative of God alone to "search" the human heart."

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Sa 16:13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ps 40:3). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Eph 1:3–6). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.