

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 "Coming To Grips With My Smallness" Psalm 139:13-18

In any reading through of Psalm 139, one can't but be amazed at David's understanding of God. He talks about these great attributes of God—His omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence—but not as a scholar or Theologian would necessarily talk, but in an extremely personal way.

So the fact that God is an all knowing and all present God is extra important to David because of what it means for Him in his everyday life. Right from verse one he uses the personal pronouns 'me' and 'I' for himself and mainly uses the relational title of 'you' when he speaks about God.

So verse one says, "**O LORD, you have searched me and you know me.**", and we note the small capitals used for Lord which show that he is addressing Yaweh, the unique God of Israel. So he knows the greatness of the one he is speaking about. But then immediately he moves into this conversational approach where he uses you and me in a most natural way.

And I find this to be most encouraging and refreshing, particularly in light of the way that others in that time would have addressed their idols and gods. One can't imagine the local Philistine king speaking to his god Dagon, an image made of stone, in such a way.

But then David had this beautiful relationship with God by His Spirit that is in so many ways like the relationship we have as Christ-ones with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A connection that is not one of unholy fear but of awesome delight in the presence of an all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful God who loves and cares for us as individuals.

This is specifically the meaning behind verses 13-18 of Psalm 139 that speak of God's Omnificence....a term defined as 'unlimited in creative power'. And God's Omnipotence, a term meaning all-powerful.

From what David says he obviously did not simply believe in God as Creator, but as His creator who has personal knowledge of him. Look with me at v13-18 from the Contemporary English Version:-

***You are the one  
who put me together  
inside my mother's body,  
<sup>14</sup> and I praise you  
because of***

***the wonderful way  
you created me.  
Everything you do is marvelous!  
Of this I have no doubt.***

***<sup>15</sup> Nothing about me  
is hidden from you!  
I was secretly woven together  
deep in the earth below,  
<sup>16</sup> but with your own eyes  
you saw  
my body being formed.  
Even before I was born,  
you had written in your book  
everything I would do.***

***<sup>17</sup> Your thoughts are far beyond  
my understanding,  
much more than I  
could ever imagine.  
<sup>18</sup> I try to count your thoughts,  
but they outnumber the grains  
of sand on the beach.  
And when I awake,  
I will find you nearby.***

Now to simply believe in the fact that God created the universe is an act of Faith. Hebrews 11:3 proclaims that when it states:-

***<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.***

But behind such an act of faith there is plenty of solid evidence. Indeed to not believe in a Creator is also an act of faith, but based, I reckon, on a lot less evidence.

I have been reading some great books lately by a scientist called John Lennox, a strong Bible believing Christian, about all the reasons he firmly believes in a Creator. And he quotes another scientist, George Klein, (who as strongly believes that there neither was nor is, a Creator of our universe), as confessing that his view as an atheist is also a matter of faith. Klein writes:-

***"I am not an agnostic. I am an atheist. My attitude is not based on science, but rather on faith....The absence of a Creator, the non-existence of God is my childhood faith, my adult belief, unshakeable and holy."*** (Quoted by John Lennox in "God's Undertaker" p35)

So whether a person believes in a Creator or not, faith is always needed, but we know as Christians that God the Spirit gives us faith to believe not just in a Creator, but in a Creator who made us and cares about us as individuals.

This is the very information that God first gave to David who, inspired by the Spirit wrote it down as a Psalm that we read today, and know it to be God's truth for us.

And what an amazing truth it is. That we human beings. So small and insignificant, are known to God our creator, and, when we connect our lives to His plan for us, He knows our days before they happen. And has a purpose for our lives that has eternal consequences.

The totality of Psalm 139 is about a God who is so big that it would seem that He must be beyond our reach. His magnitude highlights my unimportance. His uniqueness emphasizes my commonness. His pre-eminence magnifies my smallness.

In fact, coming to grips with my smallness in relation to God's enormity is destined to be depressing if I go no further than such a comparison. But if I go on to grasp as David did, that God cares for me as an individual very much, then everything changes.

Suddenly my smallness is no longer the hindrance that I thought it to be, but an opportunity for Almighty God to show His power, His planning, and His purposes through me.

I can dream big dreams of what my prayers, my wisdom, my physical strength, my emotional depths, my material wealth or lack of it, can do and have done for God. Because He knew all about me when He created me, and He made me for His purposes.

Small things matter tremendously to God, and I'm a small thing, and so are you.

What a wonderful statement is contained in v13, "you knit me together in my mother's womb", and that is one of many wonderful statements in this Psalm. And to my mind such statements reach a crescendo in v17-18:-

***17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
18 Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand.  
When I awake,  
I am still with you.***

There is a real sense here that the thoughts God has are about His people; His church here on earth. You and I. How amazing is that.

So God is all powerful and this is shown in the totality of all He has created. But it is especially shown in His creation of you and me, and the power with which He will use even the smallest and the weakest of His children to achieve that which is great in His sight. This is the joy of having God as Father. The wonder of our connection with Him through Jesus.

Is this your joy....your wonder....today?

