

Psalms: Summer 2014  
Part 7: Finding Peace in God's Sovereignty (?????)  
August 17, 2014

**Welcome:**

If you're just joining us we're spending our summer in the book of Psalms. If you're unfamiliar with the Psalms, it was the people of Israel's ancient book of prayer and worship that at times is very gritty, raw, and emotionally honest, and at other times is so incredibly beautiful that it captivates our hearts and lead us toward awe and worship...

Psalm 139 is one of these places...**look with me at verse 1...**

*"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I'm going to say even before I say it, Lord." Psalm 139:1-4*

The psalmist says, *"Lord...you have examined my heart and know everything about me."*

**Who in your life knows everything about you?** A few of us might say, 'my best friend knows everything about me.' Or, 'a parent,' or 'my spouse knows all there is to know about me.'

But even that isn't completely true...is it? Not even our closest friends know every one of our thoughts, motives, words, deeds and desires, do they?

And yet David says, 'there is one who knows you so personally and intimately, that not even the most minute detail of your life goes unnoticed by him.'

**This is a wonderful, and yet potentially terrifying thought isn't it?** That like a scientist who examines a substance under a microscope, God has thoroughly examined your life and knows everything there is to know about you!

**Now...if this is true, then what is David going to say in response?** If you know anything about David's life, you know that he had some very dark seasons. Early on in his reign as the king of Israel, while his armies were out to war, David noticed the wife of his army commander bathing next door. He wooed her, slept with her, she became pregnant, and after several failed attempts to cover up his actions, David sent Bathsheba's husband Uriah to the front lines of battle to be killed.

So...is David going to say something like, *"God, you know everything about me...so I'm ready, destroy me now. Please get it over with. Pummel me with your wrath. I know that I deserve it."*

**That's what many of us think about God, isn't it? We believe that if He knew every detail of our life, at the very least He'd want nothing to do with us...but He might even set out to ruin us. Some of us are convinced that God is waiting for us to mess up so that He can crush us. And the moment that something bad happens (we get pulled over for speeding, our AC goes out, the kids get sick), we're sure that it's God getting us back!**

**But notice what David writes...verse 5...**

*"You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!"*

David says... *"You know everything about me, and yet you don't move away from me, you walk with me. I don't get punishment, I get blessing."* And then he says something that I love... *"All of this is too wonderful and great to understand."*

So...as you listen to the Psalms, if at any point you think to yourself, **"this is too good to be true,"** you're in good company!

**Go on...verse 13...**

*"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb."*  
Psalm 139:13-15

These four verses are perhaps the most beautiful in all of the Psalms that speak of God's intimate knowledge of us and love for us!

To show us just how intimately God knows and cares for each of us, David points to God's involvement in our lives from the day of our conception to the day of our birth...

**Woven Together** – In fact...in verse 15, when David says, 'you watched me as I was woven together in the dark of the womb,' that phrase 'woven together,' is the same Hebrew word from where we get the idea of a weaver or embroiderer who patiently and precisely forms a masterpiece.

**David is suggesting that we are unique masterpieces. The handiwork of God Himself!**

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**Secularism** – Now...this flies in the face of modern secularism, which tells us that we are merely products of a random act of chance.

In his book, *“Encounters with Jesus,”* author Tim Keller writes that...

*“Secularism is like ancient polytheism in that it sees the world as not created by a single, all-powerful Artist but as the product of violent and uncontrolled forces. Not only is the physical universe itself the product of an unending series of explosions and combustions, but we ourselves are only the products of evolution, of the survival of the fittest. If this account of the world is correct...that we got here through violent and purposeless means...(then) we will continue to exist and evolve in the same way.”* Tim Keller

Keller is right. Secularism, with the help of science, acknowledges that humans are complex, but it says nothing about people having dignity, value, and self-worth.

But when you begin to look at places in Scripture like Psalm 139, you begin to see that there is rock solid, objective, irreducible significance and value in every human being! And here's the thing...if you don't believe that the Bible is trustworthy, just look at what the Bible is pointing us to!

**David writes, “You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.”**

**Conception to Birth:** Do you know that 22 days after a baby is conceived, the child's heart begins to beat? By week three, the child's backbone, spinal column, and nervous system is already forming, and the liver, kidneys, and intestines are beginning to take shape. **And by the end of the first month, the baby is 10,000 times larger than the fertilized egg!**

**Week five:** The baby's eyes, legs, and hands begin to develop.

**Week six:** Brain waves are detectable, the baby's mouth and lips are present, and fingernails begin to form.

**Week seven:** Eyelids, facial features, and toes form. The baby's eyes develop a retina and lens...and the major muscle system develops, allowing the baby to move for the first time.

**Week eight:** Every organ is in place. Bones begin to replace cartilage and fingerprints begin to form, and by the end of week eight, the baby can begin to hear.

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(All of this for a baby the size of a blueberry!)

**Weeks nine and ten:** The baby can make facial expressions and hiccup.

**Week eleven:** All organ systems are functioning, the baby has a skeletal structure, nerves, and circulation.

**Week twelve:** Baby has all the parts necessary to experience pain, including nerves, spinal cord, and the thalamus (the part of the brain responsible for sensory perception and motor function). Vocal cords are complete and the baby can suck its thumb.

**By the fourth month** bone marrow is beginning to form and the heart is pumping 25 quarts of blood per day and the baby is inhaling and exhaling amniotic fluid through its lungs.

**Week 20:** The baby will recognize its mother's voice.

**Months five and six:** Oil and sweat glands begin to function.

**Months seven through nine:** The baby opens and closes his or her eyes and is using four of the five senses. Antibodies are beginning to build up and the baby's heart is now pumping 300 gallons of blood per day.

Now...when a baby is born we call in our family, post pictures on Facebook, cry, laugh, and hand out cigars! And rightfully so...because we recognize that a child's birth is a miracle worth celebrating. But think about all of the miraculous moments that prepare the child for its entrance into our world!

David...who, 3,000 years ago had far less medical insight or terminology to describe the development of a baby from conception to birth, was still well aware of the fact that a miracle was taking place and that behind it all was a personal, loving Creator who was carefully and skillfully at work in the life of every human being!

**Marvelous** – That's why he breaks out in worship and says to God, ***"Your workmanship is marvelous!"*** The Hebrew word for marvelous, ***Pala***, means to be surpassing or extraordinary.

**God...your handiwork is extraordinary! It is beyond anything that I know!**

Now...it would be good enough if the Psalm stopped here, but it doesn't! Look at verse 16...

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*"You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are with me!" Psalm 139:16-18*