

# Psalm 139:1-6

## God is...Omniscient!

The Infinite Joy of Our Perfect, Perceiving, Pursuing, Planning, & All-Powerful God –  
Omniscience

### Introduction

*“It is...the omniscient hand, of our gracious God, that our faith and lives rest secure...”*

If we’re gonna be fervent, fighting, ferocious, faith-filled, fierce, fearless Christians...

If we’re gonna have any **hope**, any **peace**, any **joy**, any comfort, any purpose, any plans **in this life** – then our faith, our hope, our joy and our peace, our protection – **MUST REST!!!**

**Solely** and **securely**:

In the omniscient hand of a glorious God!

In the hand of the One who **knows all things** – who **plans all things** – who **predestines all things** according to the counsel of His own glorious and divine will – Ephesians 1:11...

But first what do I mean by the word omniscient...some of you are new to church, new to theology – so let me just **refresh your minds – it just means:**

*To know everything!*

To know **all things** is to be omniscient!

It comes from the Latin **Omni** = meaning *every (or all)!*

And the word (skientia) or **science** = which means **Knowledge!**

So, all knowledge/all knowing/perfect understanding!

- There is **nothing** that God **does NOT know!**
- **Nothing** God **has NOT planned!**
- **Nothing** that God **does NOT purpose!**

According to the counsel of His divine knowledge!

The Om-niscience of God speaks about the *all knowingness* of our Creator!

God knows **everything** – everything He knows He knows **perfectly** – and everything He knows perfectly he knows **exhaustively!**

I mean just think about the fact that:

God never learns! X2

You understand that **as we sit here today** there has never been a moment where:

God has had to learn something!

Discover something!

He's never surprised by anything!

He's never amazed by anything!

He never seeks new information!

*“He never has a eureka moment” (Says Lawson)...*

In fact, one of the things that **qualifies God to be God** is that God knows all things – all things actual – all things potential – **all things in every way!**

This is part of what it means **for God to be God!**

## The Vastness of God's knowledge

Now because God's knowledge is so **vast and exhaustive in its scope** and measure – it would take us an entire millennium of sermons just to begin to **even scratch the surface** of the divine knowledge of God!

## Godhead

For instance, we could spend an entire sermon simply talking about:

- The divine knowledge God has of Himself (within the Trinity)

The fact that He knows Himself **exhaustively & comprehensively** – Matthew 11:27:

*No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son desires to reveal Him...*

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:11:

*No one can comprehend the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God...*

So within the Trinity Scripture says there is this perfect unity of knowledge and understanding **that only God shares!**

## Creation

Secondly – we could use this sermon to speak about:

- The exhaustive knowledge God has of creation

All things that God knows **outside of Himself** – Psalm 147 verse 5:

*Our Lord is great, vast in power; His understanding is infinite...*

Psalm 147 verse 4:

*He counts the number of the stars; and gives name to each and everyone of them!*

There is no limitations to what God knows outside of Himself!

1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5:

*God is light, and in Him there is no darkness...*

Light in the Scriptures is a metaphor NOT just to speak about the holiness of God but also the knowledge of God!

### **Future**

Third – We could use speak of:

- The divine knowledge God has of all eternity!

The fact that He knows the past, the present, the future – and all things outside of those times –  
Isaiah 46:9-10:

*For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me declaring the end  
from the beginning, and from ancient times those things which have not yet been done...*

God stands at the beginning, and has stood at the beginning, and will stand at the beginning, and He has looked **all the way to the end of the beginning** (to the consummation of all things) **and He has declared what those things will be from the beginning!**

And by implication, **if He knows all things between the end and the beginning** then He knows **everything** leading up to those 2 points...and all of this from He has declared the beginning!

This speaks **NOT only** to the exhaustive **power** of His **knowledge** – but to the **exhaustive knowledge** of His **power!**

If He has declared the end from the beginning – then He has **all power to control** the end from the beginning...

## **One Aspect**

And so, when we **dig down** and begin to understand the **divine power** of His infinite wisdom & knowledge – we begin to understand that this subject is far more reaching & comprehensive than what our finite minds **can even begin to comprehend!**

And so what I'm going to do is zero on **ONE ASPECT** of God's knowledge rather than **tackle every category** of God's divine knowledge God has – I'm just gonna give you **ONE ASPECT** of His knowledge **as that knowledge relates to** His knowledge of us!

And that's where I think David goes in this Psalm!

## **Psalm 139**

Psalm 139 is a Psalm of David!

It is a **personal Psalm**, of **Personal Prayer**, written to a **Personal God!**

David (the author of our Psalm) is captivated – he is captured by the knowledge of God's knowledge of him!

If you have a look at verse 1 of your bibles David says:

*O LORD you have searched me and known me...*

Now look at **verse 23** where David writes:

*Search me, God, and know my heart...*

**You have searched me now Father do it again!**

These are the 2 bookends which frame our psalm to tell us about everything we're going to see **in between these two verses!**

The Psalm historically has neatly divided into 3 main sections:

- **Verses 1-6** speaks of the **Knowledge of God!**
- **Verses 7-12** speaks of the **presence of God!**
- **Verses 13-24** speaks of the **Power of God!**

But for the sake of our time here this morning we're just gonna focus on **the first attribute** there in verses 1 to 6: *The all-knowingness of our Creator God!*

### **Main Point**

And the main point that I want us to see as come to Psalm 139 is that:

*God intimately knows everything there is to know about us! X2*

And as we're gonna see this knowledge of God brings **great comfort, great conviction, and great character** to the heart of David the Psalmist!

### **Verses 1-6**

So let's look at the first 6 verses of Psalm 139 beginning at verse 1 – David writes:

*LORD...You have searched me and known me... You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD. You have encircled me; You have placed your hand on me. This wondrous knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it...*

### **Big Godder**

I'm reminded this week of a story I heard about the world-famous pastor & preacher Donald Grey Barnhouse – he was the pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia Pennsylvania!

Now Barnhouse was a student of the world-famous Professor Robert-Dick Wilson who taught Old Testament & Hebrew at Princeton Theological Seminary – and Wilson was said to be one of **the world's best preachers** at that time and place!

Well 12 years after Barnhouse had graduated from seminary he was invited back to preach **to all of the students** at one of the chapel services that were being held...

And who do you think (of all people) came into the chapel and sat down right in very front row of the building – It was Dr. Robert Dick Wilson (Barnhouses' old Professor)...

Needless to say the adrenaline was beginning to pump through Barnhouses' veins – he was beginning to sweat, and get all kinds of butterflies but he nevertheless preached his sermon...

And so after the sermon Dr. Wilson came up to thank Barnhouse for the word and he said these words:

*Don, it was great seeing you again...but I want you to know this **I will never come back to hear you preach again...***

Well Barnhouse was obviously distraught and asked him to explain what he meant and Wilson said this:

*Well the reason is: I only ever come to hear my students preach one time... and when I come, I come to see if they are **Big-Godders** or **little-Godders**, because then I know how big or how little their ministry is going to be... And Don I want you to know **that I am very glad to say that you are a big-Godder!***

You have a high view of the bigness of God!

Friends I want to ask you here this morning as sit here and read Psalm 139:

*Are you a big Godder or a little Godder? X2*

### Verse 1

Because I want you to notice **what comes into David's mind** when he thinks about the **bigness** of God – Verse 1:

*O LORD you have **searched me** and **known me**...*

In fact, a more literal translation would be:

*Because you have searched me, you know me...*

### **Searched Me**

Now that word *search* there is a very **intimate & personal** searching out... it is used of husbands searching their wives in marriage – used of *spies searching out a city in order to invade it* – it can be used of *people seeking out legal matters* in a binding document (think of a legal document you wanna read and mull over – you don't sign those things **without searching** them out first) – the word has also been **used to refer to** the *investigation of precious metals & materials* found in the heart of the earth – excavating precious things like gold, silver, and precious stone!

And so when David says that *God intimately seeks out the human heart* David is ultimately saying that:

God does a **full and thorough investigation of our hearts** so that **there is nothing hidden** from this sovereign God!

In fact, if I could say this respectfully – searching out the human heart is part of God's job description!

It's part of what it means for **God to be God!**

### **Scripture Texts**

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:9:

*For the Lord searches every heart and understands the intention of every thought...*

Proverbs 5:21:

*For a man's ways are before the LORD'S eyes, and He considers all of his paths...*

And of course, Hebrews 4:13 famously declares:

*No creature is hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account...*

So friends **know this!** that when David speaks of God's **intimate and infinite** searching knowledge – David is describing **an essential attribute** of what it means for God to be God!

God is the only person in all the world who can rightly search and judge the human heart!

## Home

In fact, this is what David **goes on to unpack** throughout the rest of the Psalm – just how **intimately** God knows the recesses of the human heart?!?!?

Well David tells us there in verse 2:

*You know **when I sit down and when I stand up...** X2*

It's an interesting Hebrew expression used elsewhere in Scripture **NOT just to speak of the mundane and everyday** activities we do in the Christian life (though that's certainly in focus) – but **that expression speaks to** the activities we do **in the confines** of **the family home** – Deuteronomy 6 verse 4:

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and strength... The famous Jewish Shema!*

**[Verse 7]** *You shall teach these words diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, **and when you lie down, and when you rise up!***

Lying down and rising up are things we do in the confines of the family unit!

## Merism

In fact it's a figure of speech that has traditionally been referred to as **a Hebrew Merism X2**

And that's basically a way for the Psalmist to express **2 polar opposites** – to focus our attention on **everything in between** those two reference points!

For instance if I said to you:

*My body aches form head to toe!*

What I'm essentially saying is that:

*My body aches **everywhere!***

Head to toe **are the 2 opposites** that encapsulates everything **in between those 2 points!**

And so notice the 2 reference points the psalmist uses in verse 2:

*You know when I sit down and when I stand up!*

In other words – when I rest, when I move (and by implication) everything in between **those two actions...**

Now notice now the poles in verse 3:

*You observe my travels and my rest...*

That is – When I move and when I sleep (and by implication) everything in between **those 2 actions...**

So at the end of the day – David sits back and reflects on **God's knowledge of his heart** and David can say:

God knows everything you ever do **X2**

He knows everything you plan to do, hope to do, try to do, but do not do!

He knows everything you have done – everything you will do – everything you plan to do but do  
NOT do!

He knows your entire life **and specifically** He knows everything you ever do **within the confines** of  
the family unit (the family home)!

- He knows how **well or unwell** you treat your spouse!
- He knows how **well or unwell** you & I treat our children!
- He knows kids how **well and unwell** you treat your parents!
- He knows when you pray for the salvation of your kids **by faith** – and when you don't!
- He knows when you're just going through the rote family worship time and when you aren't!
- He knows when you come to church, sit there and listen, only to be unchanged by the message of the sermon!
- He knows when you honour your wife **in love** – and when you don't!

He knows the Netflix programs you watch!

The YouTube videos you binge!

The books and magazines you read!

The conspiracy theories you waste time learning!

He knows every bit of data **that has ever been** on your phone!

He knows **every single text** you have ever sent!

Every single post you have ever made!

He knows every website you have ever visited incognito!

He knows every out-spoken word you have spoken against your wife – every mishandled situation –  
every abusive thought & action...

He knows everything you ever do!

### **Positive Side**

But on the positive side:

- God remembers every selfless act you've ever performed **in the family home!**

- He knows when you've taken out the garbage and not made a point of it!
- He knows every last prayer you've ever prayed!
- He knows every last tear you've ever cried!
- He knows every act of repentance you've ever done **in genuine faith!**
- He knows every family bible study you've ever tried to lead!
- He knows when you have failed to love your wife but have genuinely asked for forgiveness!
- When you have tried to lead your children in the way of Christ, but failed to show them love!
- He knows when **you have been** unfairly treated, physically abused, and looked down upon!
- And He knows **every single reason** you try to give for not loving your spouse!

He knows everything you ever do specifically **in the confines** of the family home!

## Verse 2

Now **the reason why** God knows this is given at the end of verse 2 – notice:

*You understand my thoughts from far away...*

Now there are **2 ways** we could take that:

1. It could mean that God sees our thoughts **even with the distance** between heaven and earth – that is the distance between God and man **does not affect** God's ability **to see, to know, and to perceive** our every action!

Now that's possible!

2. But **much more likely** is the fact that God is **able to know** and understand our thoughts **even before we can know and understand our thoughts and intentions** – He is able to **anticipate and know** our thoughts **even when they are still** a long way off in our own minds!

And I think that's what David's saying here!

There are things that **we will be thinking** 30 seconds from now – that **we didn't even know** we could think...

That God already knows about!

And there are things **we were thinking** 30 seconds ago that we've already forgotten about...

That God will never forget!

He knows our **future** thoughts – our **present** thoughts – our **past** thoughts – our **perceived** thoughts!

He knows them infinitely – intimately – and effortlessly!

He knows everything there is to know about us!

### **Travel**

But he doesn't just stop there in verse 2 – David goes on to describe...

The penetrating knowledge of God **doesn't just extend to:**

Our hearts

Our minds!

Our actions!

And our thoughts

But God knows **every location to which we choose to travel! X2**

Verse 3:

*You observe **my travels and my rest** X2*

Now:

- Rest here could be speaking of our private life!

- And travels speaking of our public life!
- Rest may be a reference to the night-time!
- And travels a reference to day-time!

It's hard to know **exactly** what David is saying – but one thing we do know is that *that* the word **observe there** in verse 3 literally means **to sift – to winnowing – or to sort** like a farmer sorting wheat on the threshing floor...

It speaks primarily of a **moral judgment** that God places on **each and everyone** of our motives **concerning our actions!**

In other words: **David says this:**

**NOT only does God** know every location to which you & I seek to travel – He **also knows the reasons** for **why** we're going to that place in order to it!

He knows our actions **and our intentions of actions** so much so that when Jeremiah writes in Jeremiah 17:9:

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?*

Jeremiah answers his own question in verse 10 and says this:

*I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his deeds...*

In other words:

God Himself is the only Person in all the universe who can fully comprehend **the intentions, actions, thoughts, & desires** of the human heart!

He knows **what** we're doing and He knows **why** we're doing it!

He knows **where** we're going and He knows **the motivation** of **why** we're going there!

And Christian – **He NOT only knows** our journeys that we take far away from home – but He's also there to help and to care on our journeys!

That's the point that David makes here!

2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 8:14 says:

*The Lord helped David wherever he went...*

God **not only** saw where David went – He **not only** knew David's journey and where he stopped, but **God was there to help and to care for David's ways** and that's true for us as well!

### **Habits**

Number four – God knows every predictable pattern in your life X2

Verse 3 finishes:

*You are aware of all of my ways... X2*

The ESV says:

*Intimately acquainted with all my ways...*

Intimately acquainted there is **one Hebrew word** – and it means to be **completely familiar with something** or to be used to a particular pattern!

It speaks of the well-worn paths marked out by **your constant walking** on them!

It's an observation of personal habits and lifestyles **where one can actually begin** to predict by way of observation!

So for instance, God knows which shoe you tend to put on first!

He knows which route you prefer to take to work in the mornings!

He knows which cup of coffee you enjoy drinking the most!

He knows the habit of the way that you brush your teeth – and comb your hair – and wash your hands!

### **Isaiah's Habit**

Every morning when Isaiah wakes up – he has a predictable pattern that I've started to realize!

Every morning he will call out to Salli or myself from his room – we will go in – we will say *good morning* and then **the very first words** out of his mouth after good morning is: *Milkies...*

He will ask for his milk...

And **he actually does this so often** that (in the mornings) I've actually started to go downstairs – get his milk and bring it back up – even before I go in to say *good morning* to him – because:

*I am familiar with all of his ways – well atleast his morning routine!*

And that's the idea that David is saying here – God pre-empts and knows every predictable habit and patten in your life!

He knows the temptations you normally struggle with!

He knows the predictable sins you fail to overcome!

He knows when you read His word!

When you pray!

When you eat!

When you shower!

When you drive!

He knows every predictable pattern in your life:

He knows your ways!

### Word

Lastly Verse 4 God **doesn't just know**:

Our actions!

Our travels!

Our thoughts!

And our motives!

But God knows **every single word** we ever speak **X2** – **before** we ever speak them!

Verse 4:

*Before a word is on my tongue, you know all about it, LORD....*

So similar to verse 2 now, **God is never surprised** when the intentions of our hearts come out onto our tongues!

Jesus Himself said that *out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks* – so **if He knows the intentions of our hearts** then He's certainly gonna know **every single word** that we speak **from the abundance** of our hearts!

### That Movie?

Now I'm sure we've all been in a **conversation with a friend** – **or family member** and you're all talking about the latest book, or movie, or T.V. show that you've been watching – and someone asks the question:

*What movie is he out of?!?!*

And you all try to nail down that particular actor or movie **that actor has been in** – but for the life of you, **you just can't seem to remember** the actor's name, or movie, and it's **one of the most frustrating** things of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

And sometimes the actor's name is even **right on the tip of your tongue!!!**

But you **JUST CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER!**

And then there's always **that one person in the group** that looks it up and ruins it for the rest of us!!!

### **God knows the tongue**

Well that's **sort of** like what **David is saying here about God** – God ruins it for the rest of us but in a **gloriously good way** that actually displays His infinite power, wisdom, and knowledge!

The knowledge that God has of us extends so far to our hearts that **God doesn't need a smart-phone or device** to look up what we're gonna say: **He already knows** what we're going to say **before we're going to say it** **because He knows** the **intentions** of our hearts!

You know sometimes we can say things in such as to hide the meaning of our words – but David says we can never hide our meaning from the mind of God!

He knows exactly **what** you say, **how** you are saying it, and **why** you are saying it – and He knows **exactly what** you mean **when** you say it!

He knows everything you ever say...

### **Verse 5**

And then in verse 5 David finishes off this section with this metaphor of the LORD'S **total & utter protection of your life!**

He says:

*O LORD You have encircled me; and you have placed your hand upon me...*

Some of your translations may read:

*You have hemmed me in, behind and before...*

It's the idea of the Old Testament armies that would **encircle a city & surround it in order to besiege it!**

They would surround the city on every side!

And that's the idea that David presents here – God is encircling you from every direction – so much so that:

No matter which angle God's knowledge **comes at you** – whether it's His knowledge of:

Our thoughts

Our minds

Our heads

Our hearts

Our hands

Our speech

Our tongue

Our travels

Our rest

Our desires

Our hopes

Our dreams

Our wants

Even when we're in the womb (verse 13)

God's knowledge **has besieged us** on every single side!

Every single wall of defence **in keeping God out** of our lives is useless when it comes to God of the Bible!

He always knows everything there is to know about us!

He has besieged us on every side!

## Application

And as I was thinking about some ways of how to apply the knowledge of God and **how it should encourage our hearts** – I came up with 3 ways we can apply the knowledge of God to our lives for **our good & for His glory!**

So 3 ways that the knowledge of God's knowledge should affect our lives and grow us in our obedience toward God:

1. Great Comfort
2. Great Conviction
3. Great Character

## Great Comfort

Notice what David writes there in verse 6:

*This wondrous knowledge (that is the knowledge of God's knowledge of us) is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it!*

David goes on in verse 14:

*Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well...*

And then in verse 17:

*How precious are your thoughts to me; how vast is the sum of them!*

And so **the very first thing** (says David) that God's knowledge should produce in the heart of a Christian is a **greater comfort** – **greater hope** – and **greater security** in a time **and in a place** when you & I have no reason to trust!

The omniscience of God dear friends is **the greatest answer** to our deepest fears & insecurities!

It is the pillow upon which we rest our heads and say with Spurgeon:

*There are two great certainties about the future:*

1. *God knows.*
2. *And we do not.*

And there really is a great comfort in that fact!

Elihu said of God in the book of Job – Job 36:5:

*God is mighty in the strength of His understanding...*

His knowledge brings strength to our hearts!

He keeps (says David) in Psalm 56:8:

*All of your tears in a bottle of remembrance...*

He remembers every last tear you have ever cried in prayer to Him...

Psalm chapter 8 verse 4:

*What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

### **Lowly, humble, broken**

This profound picture of a God who knows – and who hears – and who cares – and who listens – and who is there in our lives brings **great comfort** to David's heart!

That in the expanse of **all the universe**, in **all the galaxies**, and all the **solar systems in this world**, and the knowledge that God has of all things – He would take the time **and the patience** to know each and every one of our predictable patterns and ways!

If he has surrounded you on every side...

If the army of God's knowledge has encircled you & surrounded you – but this time all of the swords and the spears are **facing outward** – **NOT inward!**

They are **facing outward** to protect you – **NOT inward** to besiege you!

That anything that does happen us in this life **MUST always be** according to the divine and infinite knowledge of our heavenly Father!

**Even when we don't know** what God is doing in our lives – He always knows what we need **better than we ourselves know!**

For what does Jesus say in Matthew 6:32:

*Your heavenly Father knows what you need **even before** you ask for it...*

He knows **what** you need!

**When** you need it!

And **Why** you need it!

Again A.W Pink writes:

*The apprehension of God's infinite knowledge should fill the Christian with adoration. The whole of my life stood open to His view from the beginning. He foresaw my every fall, my every sin, my every backsliding, yet nevertheless fixed His heart upon me. O how the realization of this should bow me in wonder and worship before Him.*

### **Great Conviction**

Secondly – the knowledge of God's knowledge should produce:

**Great Conviction X2** – Verse 7 says:

*Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I fly on the wings of the*

*dawn and settle down on the western horizon, **even there** your hand will lead me; your right hand will hold on to me. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me, and the light around me will be night”— even the darkness is not dark to you. The night shines like the day; because darkness and light are alike to you...*

David says that:

If we know God is present – if we know **He is there** when we sin – then **by implication** we should know that that sin is done in the presence of a holy God!

*If I say, “surely the darkness will hide me...even the darkness is not dark to God...*

It’s the knowledge of knowing that even if we try to do things in the dark **God still sees us!**

And that awareness of God **should hopefully produce in us** a greater conviction and killing of our sin **in Christ!**

Someone once said:

*Our secret sin on earth is **open scandal** in heaven...*

### **Big Screen**

I mean think for a moment if we had the ability to put **your entire life’s span** (your thought life – your work life – your married life – your single life – your home life) – onto the projector here at church, and we **as a congregation** got to watch **every moment** of your life **you lived this week!**

How about **NOT even this week** – how about in the last **24 hours!**

We just put your entire life **in the last 24 hours** onto this screen!

How long would you stay around to watch your own movie?!?! If we saw your thoughts, your actions, your motives, your movements!

How long would you stick around?!?!

Let me answer that – NOT LONG!

**And yet here's the amazing thing!!!**

**How much more should we shutter,** when we know that the most holy Being IN THE UNIVERSE is always present with us when we sin against Him?!?!?

He Knows your thoughts, your hearts – your minds – your intentions – your actions... and yet!!! **We can't even bear the idea** that our sinful brothers or sisters would even glance at our own sinful thoughts and actions on a big screen!!!

Isn't that crazy?!?!

This is how depraved the human heart is – and this is why we need the doctrine of God's divine knowledge **to remind us** that God is always present, always watching, and always with us **whenever we choose to sin!**

And that awareness of God **should hopefully produce in us** a greater conviction and killing of our sin **in Christ!**

**C.H Spurgeon**

C.H Spurgeon said that:

*Men will tremble under the eye of a child, and at the presence of a dog **before they tremble before God...**This is practical atheism (says Spurgeon)...**You despise Him so much that His presence has no effect upon you, though the presence of any mortal man would have stopped you in your sin...***

**Great Character**

Lastly – the knowledge of God's knowledge should produce in us:

*Great Character X2*

Notice how David finishes the Psalm there in verse 21:

*Do I not hate those who hate you LORD, and detest those who rebel against you? I hate them with extreme hatred; and I consider them my enemies...*

Now this is what we would call an imprecatory psalm – or an imprecatory Prayer – A prayer that expresses deep hatred against sin & the enemies of God who are causing David grief!

It's a prayer for God **to act in accordance with** His divine justice against every enemy that opposes the name of Christ!

That as he gazes into the absolute **sovereign & divine knowledge of a holy God** – his inward being – his heart – his character **begins to be transformed** by the knowledge of God's knowledge into:

- Hating what God hates!
- Loving what God loves!
- Feeling how God feels!
- Acting how God acts!

This is a **righteous and rightful** hatred of sinful & unjust events that occur in this world!

Things that God commands us (as Christians) to hate – abortion, murder, rape, paedophilia, adultery, pornography, sex-trafficking!

But it's important to note that **this is NOT a personal vengeance or personal malice** – this is NOT David seeking personal vengeance and hatred on those who have wronged him – but **this is an appeal** for God Himself to do what David knows only God can do; that is act in accordance with His divine character!

For God to act according to His divine knowledge!

So that's the first thing to note here!

Secondly, I want you to notice that David **goes on to pray** in verse 23 for God *to search his heart and to see if there be any grievance way within him!*

That is – David wants to make sure that his motives are right and that his heart doesn't drift off into a **sinful hatred and malice against God's enemies!**

And so regardless of where you & I sit on whether or not Christians should pray the imprecatory Psalms – the point that I want us to see is that this knowledge of God's justice & judgement – is actually transforming David heart & inward character to be conformed to the image of His Father!

And that brings David great joy toward the end of this Psalm!

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

### Conclusion

And so let me finish here today with this – if you've been tracking with David's thoughts throughout the Psalm – and the progression of his logic then essentially there are **really only 2 ways to respond** to the knowledge of God's knowledge and the application it has in our lives...

We will either:

1. **Rejoice** at the fact that God **knows our every thought** – He knows our **every action** – He knows our everyday!

Or

2. **We will tremble** at the fact that He knows everything about us because we as His creatures have not honoured, loved, obeyed, or glorified Him!

And the difference between those two responses is the Person and Work of Jesus Christ!

Having an advocate in your place **who has perfectly lived** the life that you could never live!

Thinking the thoughts that you could never think!

Walking the path that you could never walk!

Doing the actions that you could never accomplish!

And doing all of that perfectly according to the will of His heavenly Father!

This is the good news of the Gospel that we proclaim and profess **every single Sunday** here at Church – that Jesus lived the life of Psalm 139 that we could never live!

He perfectly obeyed His heavenly Father **in every word, deed, thought, and action**, and then He graciously died a sacrificial & substitutionary death in our place – **and after rising from that death** He ascended into heaven where He now sits ruling and reigning **as our perfect high priest and advocate** before the throne above!

And so unless you are in Him – unless you are united to Christ by saving faith in His death, burial, and resurrection then you can never have the joy & praise that David has here in Psalm 139!

That without Jesus Christ **you will be absolutely terrified** to stand before His presence knowing that He knows your every thought, deed, action, and word!

There isn't one detail in your life that He doesn't know and He will judge you on the basis of those deeds!

And so I plead with you today don't stay in your sin. Don't face the judgment of God, repent and put your trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord!

Do you want to stand there on judgement day with the God of this universe watching your movie with you and every single thing you've ever done, proclaiming the status of guilty! And condemning you to a life full of separation from anything lovely and good?

I'm talking eternal hell forever... no escape!

Or

Would you rather have the God of this universe watch your movie and see His son in your place?

Let's pray.

## Psalm 139

### Discussion Questions

**Main Point:** God intimately knows everything there is to know about us.

**Q1.** What does the word attribute mean? – What are some attributes of God that you love? – Do you have a favourite attribute/what is it and why?

**Q2.** Do you think it's beneficial to study an attribute of God, why or why not? – Are there any dangers of studying His attributes, if so what are they?

**Q3.** How would you define God's divine Omniscience? – What are the two other Omnis that people recognise in God (See Psalm 139:7-24).

**Q4. [Read Verses 1-6].** What are some categories that God's knowledge penetrates David's life? – Which area is most comforting? – Which area is most confronting?

**Q5.** What are some ways we can apply the doctrine of God's knowledge to our lives practically?

**Q6.** What effect has the omniscience of God had on your life this week? – What area/areas have been most dramatically affected because of God's knowledge?

1. Home life?
2. Prayer life?
3. Daily commute?
4. Scripture reading?
5. Loving God?

6. Loving others?

**Q7.** How could you use this doctrine of omniscience in evangelism to non-Christians?

**Q8.** Does God's omniscience bring you comfort or joy, and why is that? – What's the determining factor between those two responses?