

# SEARCHING FOR SIGNIFICANCE

Psm 139

- We've all faced an *identity crises* ... like when retiring from the Air Force
  - ... which is just another way of saying we're ***searching for significance***
- Today's our **final stop** on our journey from despair to delight exploring **Psalms**
  - Will look at **Psm 139** ... which we can divide into **4** paragraphs - **6** verses each
    - Each section reinforces the fact **we are** indeed significant

## **FIRST**      **GOD KNOWS ALL ABOUT US**

**Psm 139:1 – 6**

- **Non-example:** 5 x 7 card for **Mikolajcik** for **congressional staffer's** visit
- God knows everything about us ... doesn't need a card ~ He's all knowing
- **Notice:** God has "**searched**" David ... Hebrew means - **to examine intimately**
  - **NOT** a casual thing but a very personal event
    - God knows everything about you and me ~ past, present ... and future
      - God ... *as He sits on the Thrown of the Universe* ... is **intimately acquainted** with every detail of our lives ~ **Heb 4:13**
  - **Psm 139:2** reminds us ... God even understands our thoughts
    - He knows what I'll be thinking ... even before I contemplate it
      - Before we speak a word ~~ He knows what we're going to say
- **Psm 139:5** God knows everything we need and keeps His guiding hand upon us ...
  - He doesn't do this because He's nosey or keeping tabs on us ~ **Jer 31:3**

**TRANS:** We're **significant** because God loves us more than we can ever imagine ... that's why He knows everything about us. **AND:**

## **SECOND GOD IS NEAR US ALL THE TIME**

**Psm 139:7 – 12**

- In these six verses – David tells us there's nowhere we can go and be away from God
  - This is because He's omnipresent (He's everywhere) ... we're always in His presence ... throughout the whole Universe !! { Look at Vs 7/8 }
  - Just so we're clear ... the Hebrew we translate as 'hell' in V8 refers to the grave - or realm of the dead
    - Notice how David describes God's presence in the realm of the dead in **Psm 23:4 a**
- In **Vs 9/10** ... 'the wings of the morning' refers to the rising sun ~ rays of light  
'the uttermost parts of the sea' refers to the Mediterranean Sea
  - These phrases express a great truth about God's omnipresence
    - If we could travel with the sun's rays as they shoot across the heavens at the speed of light and reach the farthest possible point ...
      - **God would be with us all the time**
        - We can't go fast enough to outrun God
    - There are two hypothetical questions God asks us all in: **Jer 23:24**
- David continues in **Vs 11/12**
  - These express the truth that God doesn't need light to see
    - God ~ *in Whom there is no darkness* ~ is near us during the darkest times of our lives **Matt 28:20 b**
- **AA/65** *As Jesus ascended to heaven in the form of humanity(,) they knew He was before the throne of God, (as) their Friend and Savior still; that His sympathies were unchanged; that He would forever be identified with suffering humanity. They knew He was presenting before God the merit of His blood, showing His wounded hands and feet as a remembrance of the price He had paid for His redeemed ones; and this thought strengthened them to endure reproach for His sake. Their union with Him was stronger now than when He was with them in person. The light, love, and power of an indwelling Christ shone out through them, so that men, beholding, marveled.*

### **TRANS:**

We're **significant** @ God loves us more than we can imagine - **demo by**

1) He knows everything about us

2) He's near us all the time

**AND:**

### **THIRD      GOD CREATED US**

**Psm 139:13 – 18**

- We are incredible creations of the only all-powerful God ... He alone is omnipotent
  - Under the influence of the Holy Spirit ~ David shared in Vs **13/14** a powerful truth: **God created our genetic mix**
    - Each of our parents contribute 23 chromosomes – each containing DNA
      - This chemical blueprint conveys all our hereditary characteristics
        - If our parents had **529** children ... each could be different
- God ... *based on His love and wisdom* ... selected the chromosome mix to give us the right blend of personality ~ talents ~ abilities to match **His purpose** for our life
  - We are intricately made with the greatest of care and attention to detail
    - God knitted us together w/ special care and love ... **we're special**
- Ever wonder why God is involved in creating each of His Children ... **V 16**
  - God selected the **1/529** possible combination of personality ~ talents ~ abilities so He could use us to accomplish the purposes for which He created us
    - But God also ordains the days of our lives before we are born
      - God has a purpose (plan) for our lives ... and then He creates us to best fulfill that intention ~ **Eph 2:10**
- Am sure that as David reflected on the super-abundance of God's thoughts toward him ~~ this lead him to write **Vs 17/18 a**
  - God put a lot of thought and time into the process of creating us ~~ we're that significant to Him
    - But there's something more worth noting in **V 18**
      - God did not only create us for His purpose in this life ...
        - ... He's mindful of our life ... forever more

**TRANS:** We're **significant** because God loves us more than we can imagine:

- 1) He knows everything about us
- 2) He's near us all the time
- 3) He created us

**AND** finally ...

## **FORTH      GOD WILL LEAD US**

**Psm 139:19 – 24**

- In Vs 19 – 22 David is talking @ **evil** ... Holy Spirit inspired him to condemn it ~~ and then he claims God's enemies ~~ are his enemies
  - Want us to understand the Hebrew word we translate as '**hate**' {as used in these verses} ... means **to reject**
    - **Malachi 1:3**
      - The Lord choose Jacob and his descendant to play to key role in the **plan of salvation**
        - The Lord rejected (**hated**) Esau and his descendants
        - "**hatred**" here doesn't refer to God's animosity toward Esau
          - If fact ~ God prohibited this type of hatred towards the Edomites in Deut 23:7
  - In the Bible the word '**hate**' sometimes means to **choose** one option over another
    - **Luke 14:26** then **16:13**
  - In other contexts ... the word '**hate**' is used to indicate we avoid people who want to draw us away from God
    - **1 John 4:8** makes it clear that God doesn't want His Children to '**hate**' anyone in an emotional sense
  - Critical to always remember God **never imposes** Himself upon His children
    - So ... we have to let God lead us ... to help us avoid evil ~ just like David learned
      - It would help if we prayed like David in Vs **23/24**
        - **Only God really** understands what's going on in our lives - thus:
          - He can guide us along that straight and narrow path ...
            - And the Holy Spirit can transform us when we ask God for help in doing so

- We need to continually ask God to examine our hearts/thoughts: **Jer 17:9**
  - Our **hearts can deceive** us about how good we are ... and unfortunately that will never change because our sinful hearts are desperately wicked
    - Left unchecked by God's love and grace ~ our hearts can **persuade** us to rationalize and legitimize any sin
      - Therefore ... we must ask God to expose the sins in our lives and to lead us in the way everlasting
- As we choose to allow God to lead us ... **1 John 5:14, 15** makes a powerful promise
  - *"The conditions of obtaining mercy from God are simple and reasonable. The Lord **does not** require us to do some grievous thing in order to gain forgiveness. We need not make long and wearisome pilgrimages, or perform painful ( atonements ) to commend our souls to the God of heaven or to ( redress ) our transgressions."* **AA/552**
    - As shared in **Prov 28:13** in the **Clear Word**: Those who conceal their sins will never prosper ... but they who confess ... **will** receive mercy.

## CONCLUSION

- The best gift God can give you is not health or prosperity or happiness in this world, **but more of Himself** ...
  - ... and He's willing to do just that ... **because we're significant to Him**
- We're **significant** because God loves us more than we can imagine ~~ He shows His love for us by:
  - 1) **Knowing** everything about us ...
  - 2) **Choosing** to be near us all the time ... **even knowing** us like He does
  - 3) **Creating** us a unique/valuable Child - He wants in Heaven for eternity
  - 4) **Wanting** to lead us on the straight and narrow path to everlasting life