

God Is Closer than You Think: When It Seems Like No One Cares

Psalm 139

Introduction:

- A. When David was running for his life and hiding out in a cave he cried out “No one cares for my soul.”
- B. Have you ever been there? When you’ve faced some difficult situation and felt all alone. When you’ve had to make a tough decision and felt like no one understood or cared. Have you ever wondered when you have a problem, who cares? When you need a friend, who cares? When you need help, who cares?
- C. Probably most of us here today have a good support system with our family, friends, and church. But there are times when we feel abandoned.
- D. Psalm 139 is a clarion call to be in relationship with the God who cares. While God is still God, and as such cannot be fully known by us, yet God knows us intimately and seeks us out to be in relationship with him.
- E. What we think about God and our relationship with him determines what we think about everything else in life. Wrong ideas about God will ultimately lead to wrong ideas about who we are and what we should do, and this leads to a wrong life on the wrong path toward the wrong destiny.
- F. In this Psalm, David speaks out of his own personal experience and walk with God. His knowledge was experiential—not from books or hearsay—not abstract speculation—He was the same one who knew God as the “shepherd”—a man after God’s own heart.
- G. In this psalm we learn that:

God Knows Us Intimately—We Cannot Deceive Him

- A. God knows everything about us.
 - 1. Our hopes, dreams, aspirations, our direction, our joys.
 - 2. Our fears and frustrations, our worries and anxieties.
 - 3. Our trials, problems, and suffering.
 - 4. Our motivations, talents, abilities and gifts.
 - 5. Our sins and shortcomings and the spiritual struggles we face.
- B. God’s knowledge of us is past, present, and future.
- C. God knows our thoughts, our ways, our every move. We can’t hide a thing from God—we can only fool ourselves.

- D. God knows us better than we know ourselves and he still loves us—“But God demonstrated his own love toward us in the while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- E. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us to comprehend.

God Is With Us Constantly—We Cannot Escape Him

- A. We can't escape the presence and personal concern of God—you can run from him but you can never run far enough to escape his presence nor can you outrun his love.—we are prone to run and we seek to live independent of God.
- B. God follows us through the rough times of life as well as the easy (“valley of the shadow”)
- C. God leads us and cares for us everywhere we God—he guides us through every step of the journey.
 - 1. Matt 28:20—“Lo, I am with you always.”
 - 2. Heb. 13:5—“Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.”
- D. Even in darkness, God is our light and salvation.
- E. The presence of God: comforts, inspires, encourages, empowers.
- F. The Holy Spirit is God ever present—he ministers to us at the point of our deepest need.
- G. Christian people can also be a powerful manifestation of the presence of God in our lives.

God Made Us Wonderfully—We Cannot Ignore Him

- A. God was and is active in the creation of every person. Every human life is precious to God—born and unborn.
- B. David marveled at his own creation.
 - 1. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.
 - 2. Each person is a unique creation of God.
 - 3. Each person is of infinite value to God. Your value is expressed in the death and resurrection of Christ. (John 3:16) Ethel Waters said, “God don't make no junk!”
- C. When we consider how much God knows about us and what he's done to redeem us, it causes us to burst forth in spontaneous praise and thanksgiving to him.
- D. God has numbered our days and the very hairs on our heads. God continually calls us to walk in his ways and think on life with the mind of Christ.

God Judges Righteously—We Cannot Dispute Him

- A. David struggled with the same question we do—Why do evil people prosper?

- B. The Bible teaches us that in God’s great scheme of things the scales of justice will balance. There is a day of reckoning and a day of judgment coming.
 1. “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever one sows, he will reap.”
 2. “It is appointed unto man once to die, after that comes the judgment.”
 3. “We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”
 4. Amos—“Prepare to meet your God.”
- C. We don’t like to talk about judgment, or contemplate that we might be judged, but it is a central tenet of our faith. (Apostles’ Creed—Jesus will come again to judge “the quick and the dead.”)
- D. We must make sure that we take our stand on the side of the right.

A Dangerous Prayer—Are We Willing To Pray It?

- A. “Search me”—my love, my life, my ambitions, my motives
- B. “Know my heart”—its dedications, its sincerity, what fills my heart/
- C. “Test me”—my devotion, my work for the Lord—how does it stand up?
- D. “Know my thoughts”—Are my attitudes right? Do I speak the truth in love? Would I be ashamed to have my thoughts spoken aloud?
- E. “Cleanse any wickedness in me”—Are we ready to take that bath? (I Jn. 1:9)
- F. “Lead me in the way everlasting”—Am I following God’s will for my life? Do I accept his leadership and lordship? Am I growing more Christ like every day? Am I following the straight and narrow path, or have I drifted onto the broad road that leads to destruction? Have I taken a detour on the heavenly way? Is my hope fixed on Christ and my heavenly home?

Conclusion:

- A. Do we really know God?
- B. God knows us intimately in every detail—and he still loves us and cares for us.
- C. When it seems like no one cares, just remember—God cares.
- D. God wants us to know him in an intimate personal way.
- E. We can know him when we know his son, the lord Jesus Christ, and trust in him to forgive us our sins, make us right with God, and lead us in the right path. (John 14:6)