

Undervalued Assets – The Precious Things of God #4

The Precious Thoughts of God

Ps 139:1-17

Introduction:

1. When God created us, He put within us some basic needs
 - a. Everyone has the same basic needs – no matter culture or skin color
 - b. God put those needs there so we would turn to Him
 - c. He is the only one who can fulfill perfectly those basic needs
2. One of the needs that God put in us is the need for significance
 - a. We all want our lives to count for something – Do I matter?
 - b. Everyone has within him this need for significance
 - c. One man said to his pastor, “You know my greatest fear. I fear that I might live my whole life and never discover my purpose.”
 - d. When we don’t feel that we are significant, we become depressed
 - e. Some even take their own lives because they believe that their lives really don’t matter
3. Even deeper is the question – “Do I matter to God? From God’s standpoint, is there any significance to my life?”
 - a. If you think you matter to God, then it really does not matter how insignificant you are to others.
 - b. If you do not believe that you matter to God, then it really does not matter how many people believe that your life is significant.
4. If you go somewhere other than the Word of God to find significance then you will be disappointed and maybe misled
 - a. Science and evolution will not give you significance
 1. Science and evolution say that you are the result of millions and millions of years of chance mutations.
 2. You are not special – you are just a genetic accident
 3. You evolved from monkeys which evolved from other animals
 4. You are headed into nothingness – insignificance
 - b. Some people try to find significance in their work
 1. Their sense of significance comes from what they accomplish
 2. They achieve good grades in school, work hard, are successful
 3. The problem comes when they grow old and can no longer perform. There is nothing worse than seeing an old athlete.
 4. Why would some athlete continue competing when he was no good anymore? Because he found his significance in athletics
 5. Depend on accomplishments for significance and you will always be insecure
5. “Do I Matter to God?” – Ps 139 answers that important question

I. God Knows Me Intimately - I Cannot Deceive Him

A. He Sees My Every Movement – vs 1-2

1 O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. 2 Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

1. The verb "search" means "to examine with pain and care."
 - a) *It comes from a root which means "to pierce through"*
 - b) *We sometimes speak of "seeing right through a person"*
 - c) *For us this is poetic, for God it is a simple fact*
 - d) *The Jews used this word to describe digging deep into a mine, exploring a land, and investigating a legal case.*
2. He doesn't just know us, but He knows our thoughts too
3. Our friends see the outside but God sees the heart, and we cannot deceive Him.
4. "Understand" in [verse 2](#) means "to distinguish and discern with insight" and not just gather raw data.
5. "Thou" is emphatic – thou alone know my thoughts
6. Ill - One day an astronomer sat before his giant telescope making some observations on the sun. As it descended toward the horizon there came into view the top of a hill about seven miles away. On the hill was an orchard. In an apple tree... two boys were stealing apples. One was stealing the fruit...the other kept watch. But there sat the professor, seven miles away seeing every movement of the boys. Can any one doubt that God sees us?

B. He Sees My Every Moment – vs 3-4

3 Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

1. God knows my every step
 - a) *From my first steps as a toddler*
 - b) *To the faltering steps of an elderly person*
2. He hears my every word
 - a) *Every day we speak enough words to fill a pretty good sized vol.*
 - b) *During my life time my words would make enough books to fill a college library*
 - c) *We forget most of our words, but God doesn't forget them*
 - d) *We shall give account of every idle word*

C. He Sees My Every Maneuver – vs 5-6

5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

1. "beset" means to be cramped or limited

- a) *It is the word for besieging a town*
 - b) *God hems us in on every side so that there is no escape*
2. David didn't shrink from God's omnipotence, he reveled in it
 3. No one saw Cain kill Abel – but God did
 4. No one saw Achan steal the goods – but God did

II. God Is with Me Constantly - I Cannot Escape Him

- If God knows so much about us, perhaps the wisest thing is to run away and hide.
- But all "escape routes" are futile.

A. Death Does Not Hide Me From God – vs 7-8

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

1. If we go up to heaven or down to sheol, the realm of the dead, God is there
2. God is everywhere - He is on both sides of the grave.
 - a) *Believers can expect to meet God in heaven*
 - b) *Unbelievers can expect to meet God in hell*

B. Distance Does Not Hide Me From God – vs 9-10

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

1. Distance does not hide us from God and this is comforting to the believer
2. "Wings of the morning" refer to the first rays of light in the morning
 - a) *It we could hop onto a ray of sunlight in the morning and ride out to the ocean, God would see us*
3. If we travel the speed of light to the east or west (the Mediterranean Sea was west of Israel), His hand will catch us and tenderly lead us.

C. Darkness Does Not Hide Me From God – vs 11-12

11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

1. We cannot hide even in the darkness, for to the Lord, the darkness is as the light.
2. The trouble is that "men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil"
3. Darkness hides man from man but not from God
4. One night in July 1977 the power in New York went out. Immediately thousands of people poured from their tenements to loot

and burn the city. Stores were broken into, plate glass windows broken as the looting began. People took all that they could carry. Some even rented trucks to haul away the treasure. Fires were started. Firefighters fought over 1000 fires and there were 1700 false alarms to decoy them and the police away from the looting. Thieves even robbed each other. One teenaged girl complained that some boys offered to help her carry the stuff she stole but they took off with her stuff. "That's not right!" she said. "They shouldn't have done that." Over two thousand stores were plundered or damaged and only a small minority of the looters were arrested. All because it was dark.

III. God Made Me Wonderfully - I Cannot Ignore Him

- This is one of the greatest passages in literature about the miracle of human conception and birth.
- "In the presence of birth," said Eugene Petersen, "we don't calculate—we marvel."
- We sometimes forget how amazing our bodies are
- God formed us as He wants us to be, and we must accept His will no matter how we feel about our looks, or our abilities.

A. He Possessed Me – vs 13a

13 For thou hast possessed my reins...

1. "possessed" = "qanah" = to buy, purchase, acquire, own
2. It's plain! The Lord owned us ... when we were still unborn babies!
3. Then, if so, it would be stealing from God to abort a baby! Abortion is therefore at least a double sin; theft and murder!
4. Exodus 15:16, using our verb "qanah," says that God has "purchased" His people Israel! They, the Jews, belong to Him in a special way!
5. "Reins" = literally means kidneys
 - a) "Kilyah" is translated "kidneys" 18 times in our KJV.
 - b) Then 13 more times it is rendered as "reigns."
 - c) It is speaking of the innermost recesses of a person's being!
 - d) God oversees /possesses / cares for me ... from the inside out!
 - e) Ancient peoples thought that the kidneys were the center of one's thoughts / emotions. Now we say "heart" or "soul"

B. He Covered Me – vs 13b

13b ...thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

1. "Covered" = Sakak – to overshadow, hedge about, fence it or protect
 - a) It is first used in Ex 25:20 of the Cherubim in the tabernacle whose wings "covered" the mercy seat
 - b) No wonder Jer 1:5 says

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

C. He Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Me – vs 14

14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

1. "Wonderfully" = with distinction, unique, unlike any other
2. You are a special design by Almighty God
3. "Praise" here is spelled "yadah," which is the Hebrew word for Judah.
 - a) *The verbal root behind "yadah" means "to throw, shoot or cast"*
 - b) *The idea is that of "lifting" or "casting" praise toward our Lord*
4. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
 - (1) The verb "made" is an unusual one, only being found 7x in the whole Bible!
 - (2) Palah" carries the idea of something being "distinguished / unique /wonderful
 - (3) This is one of the Names of the Lord in Isaiah 9:5. (Wonderful Counsellor)
 - b) *The modifier "fearfully" translates a form of "yare" which means reverently or honorably or astonishingly!*
 - (1) The human being, his or her body and soul and spirit, should evoke worship!
 - (2) Worship of the Creator and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. I Was Not Hid

15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

1. "Made" = "asah" – fashioning, preparing, producing something
 - a) *Like an artist creates a masterpiece!*
 - b) *Babies are prime examples of God's artistry! - living miracles*
2. But notice where God makes us – "in secret"
 - a) *"Sether"= a covered place or a hiding place or a sheltered place!*
 - b) *A protected place! God is here talking about a mother's womb!*
 - c) *Now woman's womb is NOT a safe place, with abortion raging*
3. "curiously wrought" must be discussed.
 - a) *"Raḡam"= "embroidered" or produced with needlepoint accuracy*
 - b) *It also has the idea of mixing colors or variegating beautiful patterns ever so skillfully!*
 - c) *It is associated with "needlework" 6 times in the OT*
 - d) *God is pictured as a craftsman carefully designing a unborn baby as a lady does her embroidery by the fireside on a cold evening!*
 - e) *And God is doing this work while the baby is still in the womb!*
4. "the lowest parts of the earth" is a euphemism for the mother's womb!
 - a) *The womb is not in a lady's head ... or her "highest" part.*
 - b) *It is not in her chest" or "middle" part*
 - c) *But in her belly or womb, the "lowest" part of her body*

E. He Fashioned Me – vs 16

16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

1. “Fashioned” = yatzar = potter
2. God molded me like a potter shaping clay into a beautiful piece pottery

F. God Thinks of Me – vs 17-18

17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

It is amazing that God considers me

1. God's tender care does not cease when the child is launched into the world
2. Think of what must be on God's Mind!
 - a) *(A whole universe is under His control!)*
 - b) *And YET He thinks of you and me, dear believing friends!*
3. Did you ever realize that He must have thought of you even before you were born.
 - a) *This very Psalm indicates that the Lord controlled your development in your mother's womb.*
 - b) *He thought of you before you were born! How "precious!"*
4. Ps 40:17 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me...
5. He thinks of you when you are discouraged! When you are sick! When you are lonely! When you are fearful!

Conclusion:

1. Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth and song;
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

Oh yes, He cares—I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.