

J.J.

GOD KNOWS (Part 2)
Psalm 139 : 1-6

ANNOUNCEMENT :

Birthday Celebrants

Mission Boxes

INTRODUCTION

Quote : “Knowing about God is crucially important for the living of our lives.... if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it .The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God. – J.I. Packer Knowing God

It's the same with people who do not know God. There will be times that life will break down on them and they will find the situation hopeless.

So in this situation, in order for us to know God, we need to know His attributes. You will find God's attributes all over the Bible.

What is an attribute? A quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of someone or something.

Examples : GOD IS HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. GOD IS ETERNAL. GOD IS ALMIGHTY.

There's this one psalm that shows us :

God's omniscience (knows everything); God's omnipresence (always present) and God's sovereignty. (He is in total and full control)

That Psalm is Psalm 139

Note : Jewish scholars note that Psalm 139 the most excellent psalm of David, again, simply because it shows some of God's attributes of omniscience, omnipresence and sovereignty

We started studying God's omniscience : God knows

Psalm 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

*¹ O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.*

*² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

*³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

*⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.*

*⁵ You hem me in—behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.*

*⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

Pray

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

Review : As we studied last week, this is written by David as song of worship.

We started talking about about God's omniscience.

Etymology : Latin “omni” – all “scientia” knowledge
It means God knows everything.

Note : His omniscience is connected with His being eternal. It means He has no past, no present, no future.

When Moses asked God, what should I tell your people regarding your name.

God answered :

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”

God did not say “I was, I am, I will” This means, everything that has happened, that is happening and that will happen, he knows and sees it at the same time.

This is the reason why we can put our trust and faith in the Lord even if you are suffering right now simply because you might not see what's going to happen to this but He is seeing it right now and if you are His child, you know that God is good, all the time. **His purpose in your current suffering right now is for your good. Trust Him.**

This is the reason why Joseph had to look back at all the suffering that he experienced for 13 years and become Prime Minister of Egypt to help his own people and family, was able to say, *Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.*

Last week, we started with the verse :

*¹ O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.*

Etymology : search “chagar” – to dig

Idiomatic expression in English : “Let's get to the bottom of this.” It means let's see what's the reason behind this.

The Lord knows everything.

In short : We can't hide anything from the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:3 ... the Lord is a God who knows ...

1 John 3:20 God ... knows everything.

Psalms 147:5 Great is our Lord ... his understanding has no limit.

Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1. The Lord knows our activities.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;

Etymology : sit “yashab”, most of the time, this word is used as “dwell”

Rise “quwm” to establish; to build; if you see it’s common usage in the OT, it’s “rising up” and then going”

In the end...GOD KNOWS YOUR ACTIVITIES... HE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH....WHETHER IT'S THE MOST BASIC THING LIKE YOU'RE SITTING DOWN, WATCHING...BUT HE ALSO KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU RIGHT NOW IN A DIFFICULT OR TROUBLESOME SITUATION....HIS GRACE WILL MAKE YOU PUSH THROUGH!

He is interested in every aspect, every detail in our lives.

Luke 12:7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Continued

2. *The Lord knows our thoughts.

you perceive my thoughts from afar.

Etymology : thoughts “rea” which means “thought” “purpose” “aim”

In short :

In the quickest sense : God knows what you're thinking right now

Ice-breaker : What are you thinking right now?

Remember : This line is after

*² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

In short : God knows what is your motivation or intention behind an action (purpose, aim)

Psalm 94:11 The Lord—knows the thoughts of man, that they are but a breath.

At the end of the day, when God looks at us, He doesn't only look at the outward action or appearance, He looks at the intention behind everything.

Note : This is the reason why our Lord emphasized that sin is not just about our actions but it's even in our thoughts.

Matthew 5:28 I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

What about anger?

Matthew 5:22 I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

This is the reason why no one can say, "I will go to heaven, I am a good person. I am better than the other person.." If we have become angry in our hearts and God knows what's inside our hearts, our Lord Jesus Christ said, "*'will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

EVANGELISTIC : That's why the Bible says, "No one is good, not even one." And the only way a person to escape hell and be with our Lord in heaven is to put our faith in what Jesus Christ did on the cross for us 2000 years ago.

3. *The Lord knows our ways.

*³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

**Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways. (KJV)*

Etymology : path... “orach” way of living; way of life; lying down “reba” ; ways “derek” manner, habit

Difference between : *² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

AND

*³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.*

- a.) **Verse 2** shows that God is interested, knows the details of our lives
- b.) **Verse 3** shows that God is interested in the broad spectrum of our lives

Example : . He knows and interested in you're going to the gym or you're work or who your friends are or what is your favorite food and etc etc....

My wife and I was just talking about this last night

Illustration : I remember this story that one of her friends was just always going out since she had the money anyway when they were teenagers. But since she is the youngest in the family, the parents were used to the kids going out already. But she was frustrated that her parents doesn't even ask where she is going that one day, while going out for a party, she already told the parents, "Aren't you even going to ask where I am going?"

Illustration 2 : I also remember that Chicay's dad said to his children not to take offense when they get late in coming home, he said, "Kung ang pusa nga hinahanap...anak pa."

Note : To know about a person, **to be interested in what he or she is doing shows that you care.**

Application : And our Lord wants to guide us in the decisions we make in our life.

Psalm 23 : 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

*2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

3 he refreshes my soul.

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

Now, I've noticed that people like and remember the "I lack nothing... makes me lie down.... Even though I walk through the valley.... Surely goodness and love...." But when it comes to the guiding me in the right path... we tend to just try to do it on our own. When our Lord wants to guide us.

And this is where most of us fall including me.

We let OUR FEELINGS guide our way.

We let WHAT IS PRACTICAL to guide our way.

We let OUR PRIDE to guide our way.

We let OUR FRIENDS guide our way.

We need to let GOD GUIDE OUR WAY by consulting His Word, the Bible...

Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

by asking Him.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

4. *The Lord knows our words

*⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.*

I want you to see the greatness of God

Activity : What do you think is the next word that will come out of my mouth?
 Even if you guessed correctly...I could have changed it and even that God knows!!!!

GOD KNOWS EVERY WORD BEFORE YOU SPEAK THEM.

- **He knows what we are going to pray for even before we pray it.**

Matthew 6:8 for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Some of you might ask, then pastor, if our Father knows what I need before I pray, then why do I still need to pray? Fair question

First, God has commanded us to pray and expects us to pray.

Second, It shows our dependency and trust in God.

LISTEN CAREFULLY . Remember, God knows our need and in His eternal Almighty power, THE ANSWER IS ALREADY THERE but it is faith through prayer that opens it.

That's why the Bible says :

Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

You see this? Why with thanksgiving?

LISTEN CAREFULLY!!! It's because God is saying I already have the answer or the solution to your need and if you know that it's already there, then we can already thank Him about it.
 That's why, the start of the command says, *Do not be anxious about anything*
Because God already has the answer for your need.

- **He knows every word that we have said in secret (gossip or bad intentions)**

Luke 12: 3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

We need to be careful on what comes out of our mouth.

Matthew 12:36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

Etymology : careless, idle (KJV); argos, free from labour.

The Bible is so correct... because it's easy to just gossip, it's easy just to let go of our anger through our mouth... it requires no work... What requires labour? Is to hold our tongue or to think about what we are going to say before we say it.

Tip No extra charge : Before you talk to anyone or say anything to anyone, ask yourself, “Am I saying this out of love?”

It's also easier and it takes no work that the word that will come out of our mouths, are words of discouragement, or words of defeat or deceit (lying)

Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Remember, what's inside our heart is the one that flows from our mouth.

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

It is important to fill our hearts with the right things. Look at what the Bible says...

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

That's why it's important for us to fill our hearts the Word of God.

CONCLUSION :

*⁵ *You hem me in—behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.*

Etymology : hem; beset KJV “tsuwr” – confine, cramp

Look at the word picture : God is at our back and at our front “**confined to God**” . He knows what's happening to us and He surrounds us.

you have laid your hand upon me.

It's a sign of being blessed e.g. Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh

David is saying : God knows us and is so interested in us, that there's nothing that's going to happen to us that's apart from His will

I am always with you...I know you too well...

That's why David says in verse 6:

*⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.*

Just imagine : God is in front and in our back and then His hand is upon us.

Good news : There's nothing you can't hide from God, your most innermost thoughts, your secret actions, your unguarded words, your bad habits and yet He still sent His Son to die for us.

I love this Tozer quote :

Jesus Christ knows the worst about you. Nonetheless, He is the one who loves you the most. –
A.W. Tozer

Beloved, God knows who you are, your every thought and action and yet He still sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for you.

Romans 5: 8 "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

The only proper response to this is to love Him back.

(BREAKING OF THE BREAD)

S.G.D.