

Psalms 139

Lord you know me...!

Psalm 139

These days people talk of an “identity crisis” when they try to find out who they are. The more we discover about the vast universe and the tiny speck of a planet we live on situated on the edge of one of millions of galaxies, the less significant we feel and the more we question our purpose of our existence. This psalm of David tells us that our identity is linked to our creator God. It may have been written when he was distressed about some who accused him or misrepresented his motives. While others may not understand us, God does know everything about us and this gives great comfort. This praise psalm is divided into 4 parts of 6 verses each. The first 3 parts describe key attributes of God’s knowledge of us and the final part is our heart’s response to this amazing understanding of God.

This psalm describes God's intimate and personal understanding of our being. From the day we were conceived until the day we die, God knows all about us, While His plan starts with our formation, there is more that God has planned for us.

1. My formation – Marvellous but marred

“I praise you because **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:14.

Central to this psalm is David’s wonder at the marvel of his body as evidence of the creative power of God. With modern science we know so much more than David could ever know. The information encoded in the strands of DNA that occupy every one of the 100 trillion cells of your body is unique to you and would fill a library of books. Recent understanding of the complexity of the biochemical machines that allow each of these trillions of cells to function has clearly pointed to an intelligent designer beyond our comprehension. Yet many deny the very existence of God. The accusation is that mankind has suppressed the clear knowledge of God displayed in what has been made (Rom 1:18-20). Thinking ourselves to be wise, we have become fools, even to believing that the immense complexity and evident design of the world about us came into being when nothing went bang millions of years ago. God says that all men are without excuse. For many people, the awesome creative power of God is displayed when they see the miracle of the birth of a baby, for others it is the vast expanse of space and for others it is the intricacy of the structure and function of the cells that make up our bodies. From this understanding of the marvellous creative acts of God comes David’s acknowledgement of God’s omniscience (all knowing), omnipresence (all present) and omnipotence (all powerful). Despite God’s marvellous creation of the world around us, David recognises that the creation is marred by what the Bible calls sin. In the last section he raises the question of why God does not deal with evil but then acknowledges that God needs to deal with the “evil” of his own heart by opening up himself to the all seeing eyes of God. David realises that his heart needs changing to conform to the standards of a holy God. We all need transformation.

2. My transformation – Submitting to His searching

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

While our formation from non-being to existence is marvellous, God also wants to transform us to be able to enjoy relationship with Him by being conformed to the image of His son Jesus Christ. This change is not automatic. We have to humble ourselves before our creator God, acknowledge that it is our sin that blocks our relationship with God and accept the redemption offered through the cross of Jesus Christ. This process of repen-

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.* We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord’s Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

THE PLAN

Singing
Worship
Quick Break
Singing
Children to Sunday school
Ross pettigrew

This Week

Today

- Psalms 139 - Ross Pettigrew
- Japanese Christian Fellowship - 5pm

Friday

- No Women’s Prayer Meeting during the school holidays
- No Youth Group

Next Week

Sunday

- Psalms - Stephen Clark

Prayer Requests

- Pray for next weeks service
- There is a large number of young teenagers in JCF and elsewhere that would lend itself to a youth program. Pray for wisdom as we consider opportunities for a Sunday evening service.

