

SEARCH ME

PSALMS 139:17-24

Text: Psalms 139:23-24

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²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Introduction:

In our text David begins by acknowledging the goodness of God.

He acknowledges:

◆ God's Care

Psalms 139:17-18

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 precious – How precious
- It is numerous – If I should count them
- It is constant – When I awake, I am with thee

He then closes with an appeal concerning his own sincerity.

Notice:

1. THE PERSON WHO WAS PRAYING

A. He was a sensible man

God knew all about him.

Psalms 139:2

²Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Psalms 139:4

⁴For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

- His downsitting and uprising
- His words
- His thought
- His motives

B. He was a sincere man

He was honest

- He knew death does not hide us from God

Psalms 139:7-8

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*.

- He knew distance does not hide us from God

Psalms 139:9-10

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.

- He knew darkness does not hide us from God

Psalms 139:11-12

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*.

2. THE PRAYER THAT HE PRAYS

The prayer denotes great “sincerity” on the part of the psalmist. It indicates also self-distrust. It is an expression of what all must feel who have any just views of themselves - that the heart is very corrupt; that we are liable to deceive ourselves; and that the

most thorough search “should” be made that we be “not” deceived.

The idea is, Search me thoroughly; examine not merely my outward conduct, but what I think about; what are my purposes; what passes through my mind; what occupies my imagination and my memory; what secures my affections and controls my will.

We ask the question, “Who is it that is being searched?”

- The one we think we are
- The one others think we are
- The one that God knows we are

A. Self examination is never easy

B. Self examination is essential

1. Looking inward requires honesty.

- Have you been too lenient?
- Have you been too lax?
- Have you been too lazy?

2. Looking upward reveals hope.

Close:

How does God search us?

- Through the Scripture
- Through the Spirit
- Through Situations