

SEARCH ME

PSALMS 139:17-24

Text: Psalms 139:23-24

Psalms 139:23-24

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

Not only was he a sensible man but also:

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.

We have considered the person who was praying.

Notice secondly:

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.

Note the elements of this prayer:

A. Search Me

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

Self-examination is never easy

Self-examination is essential

- Looking inward requires honesty.
 - Have you been too lenient?
 - Have you been too lax?
 - Have you been too lazy?
- Looking upward reveals hope.

We have briefly noted who the one being searched is, consider also briefly:

B. Try Me and Know My Thoughts

The words “try me” means to test or to investigate, to prove.

Illustration: Silver Smith

The silver smith determined the purity of the silver by the clarity of his reflection in the molten silver. God desires the same to see Jesus’ reflection when he looks at us.

C. See If There Be Any Wicked Way In Me

The word wicked means an idol (as fashioned); also pain (bodily or mental): idol, sorrow, wicked.

D. Lead Me in the Way Everlasting

The word everlasting means eternity; continuance, lasting, long (time), (of) old (time), perpetual.

Close:

Psalm 139:23-24

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.

When should we pray this prayer?

- When our love for God is growing cold

Mark 12:30

³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

When our love for other isn't what it should be

Mark 12:31

³¹ And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

- When our love for His Word grows cold

It summary we should pray this prayer each day for it easy for our love for Him, others and His word to grow cold.

How does God search us?

- Through the Scripture
- Through the Spirit
- Through Situations