

He is!

An Expository Exploration of the Attributes of God

Sermon Five: He is All-Knowing (Omniscience)

February 2, 2020

Psalm 139:1-6; 16-17

Opening Illustration: “You drank all the milk!” Really funny commercial. The wife says, “You have some explaining to do” and he just starts confessing. Why was this foolish? Because his wife didn’t know everything. She just knew this one thing. It was foolish to admit everything because of her lack of knowledge.

ILL: What do you do when a cop pulls you over? Confess to everything you ever did? No. Why not? Because you have no idea what he saw you do...you have no idea what he knows. How is this different than God? Why is it different to interact with the God of the universe in this regard than it is to interact with a fellow human?

Answer: God knows exactly what we have done. Not only that, but He knows everything that we have ever done and He knows all of that perfectly. There is no escaping His exhaustive knowledge of everything about us.

I. Introduction

A. *What is the Omniscience of God?*

1. God’s omniscience is His perfect knowledge of everything.
 - a. Our focus here, remember, is not a philosophical one, but a spiritual and expository focus. Because of this, we will not spend much of our time on the philosophical questions of God’s knowledge. Instead, we will take the same focus that David does in this psalm.

B. *Some verses to consider:*

1. **Hebrews 4:13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
2. **Psalm 33:13-16** The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; ¹⁴From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, ¹⁵He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. ¹⁶The king is not saved by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength.

C. *Why is the omniscience of God so important?*

1. God must know everything or He is not fit to be God.
 - a. Why is this?
 - i. If there is something that God does not know, then He couldn’t be ultimately trusted.
2. Since God DOES know everything, there is no point in trying to deceive Him.

ILL: “Who are you trying to fool?” We often bank on the lack of knowledge in others. We can never do that with God. This is both remarkably liberating and deeply humbling at the same time.

3. Since God Does know everything, we must marvel at His astounding love for us and patience with us.

II. He knows our thoughts (*Psalm 139:1-6*)—No contemplation can be hidden from Him.

A. *What does the passage say?*

1. **Psalm 139:2** You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.
 - a. What does it mean that God knows our thoughts “from afar”?
 - i. Does this mean that God is far away from us but can still see into our minds?
 - a) No. See vv. 7-12. We will talk more about these verses next week.
 - ii. What it means is that God knows our thoughts way before we even think them.
 - iii. What it means is that God knows our thoughts perfectly without even having to exert any effort to do so.

B. *Why is it important for us to know that God knows our every thought?*

1. We live under the assumption that our thoughts are private and not open to rebuke or correction.
2. We are much less diligent over our thoughts than we are of our actions. This is because of the fact that we can think without any fear that other people will think less of us.

ILL: How would your life be different if people could read your thoughts?

C. *What should be our response be to the fact that God knows our thoughts?*

1. A humble shame over the God-belittling thoughts that we have.
2. A desperate repentance over the scope of our mental sinfulness.
3. A wonderful joy over the realization that God's love is in no way diminished by our sinfulness in this area.

III. He knows our ways (Psalm 139:1-6)—No actions can be hidden from Him.

A. *What does the passage say?*

1. **Psalm 139:3** You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.
 - a. Notice that it says that God is intimately acquainted with all his ways.
 - b. Notice that it says that God is intimately acquainted with all his ways.

B. *What does this mean?*

1. God knows exactly what we do, every time we do it.
2. This means that your life is absolutely exposed to His infinite and unchanging mind.
3. This means that we cannot deceive or manipulate God.

IV. He knows our words (Psalm 139:1-6)—No utterance can be hidden from Him.

A. *What does the text say?*

1. **Psalm 139:4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.

B. *What does this mean?*

1. It means that we are in big trouble.
2. It means that there has never been a sarcastic remark, a hurtful criticism, any profanity, anything that we have said that He did not hear and that He does not remember. He knows everything we ever said and He knew it perfectly before we said it.
 - a. **Matthew 12:36-37** "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
 - b. **James 3:1-10** [have the people turn there]

Point: Have you ever said something stupid and then immediately wished you could take it back? I sure have. *There are multiple examples I could pick here to illustrate this. I think the one I will share is the stupidest thing I have ever said from the pulpit.* There are few things more embarrassing than saying something totally stupid.

V. He knows our days (Psalm 139:16-17)—No experience can be hidden from Him.

A. *What does the passage say?*

1. **Psalm 139:16** Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

B. *What is the point?*

1. God knows everything that will happen on every day of our lives.

ILL: Newlyweds and nearly weds. It is a good thing that they have no idea what is coming. They think that life is going to be nothing but sunshine and roses. Good. Let them think that. Their naivety is actually kind of cute. God is not naïve. Notice this: In **Deuteronomy 5:27**, Israel says, "Go near and hear all that the LORD our God says; then speak to us all that the LORD our God speaks to you, and we will hear and do *it*." So naïve! Hear how God

responds in the next 2 verses: “The LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken.’”²⁹ ‘Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever!’”

VI. Conclusions

A. *What does this teach us?*

1. The point in all of this is not, “Change your behavior” as important as that may be.
 - a. It is not, “I need to change my thoughts.” You may need to change your thoughts, but that is not the point of this passage.
 - b. It is not, “I need to change my ways.” You may (and do) need to change your ways, but that is not the point of this passage.
 - c. It is not, “I need to change my words.” You may (and do) need to change your words, but that is not the point of this passage.
2. The point in all of this is what God is, not what we are called to be.
 - a. **Psalm 139:6** *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.
 - b. **Psalm 139:17** How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Point: God is marvelous. He is amazing. He is gracious. He knows everything that we think, and loves us anyway. He knows everything that we do, and loves us anyway. He knows everything say, and loves us anyway. He knows everything we experience, and loves us anyway. It is not about what we do. It’s about Who He is!

B. *To what must this drive us?*

1. This should drive us to humility, worship and repentance.
2. If we refuse to be humble, reverent and repentant, it should drive us to desperation. That’s what we will talk about next week.
3. This should drive us to Christ, who we celebrate in the Lord’s Supper this morning.
 - a. Introduce the Lord’s Supper and how it relates.
 - b. Call the ushers forward, etc.