

TITLE: THE “OMNI” GOD

TEXT: PSALM 139

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to study David’s description of God as being all-knowing, always present everywhere, all-powerful, and all-righteous.

SCRIPTURE: Num 23:19 – “*God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: Hath he said, and shall he not do? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*”

INTRO: Think about this deep, philosophical question: Can God make a rock that He can’t lift? Most likely we’ve all heard this ridiculous question before. The philosopher who asks this question is *not* a truth-seeker; he is looking for one thing: What *negative* attribute can I find in God? Either He *can’t* make the rock, or He *can’t* lift it! Either way, there IS something that is impossible for God to do!

Who can know anything about God without His revealing it to us (Mt 11:27)? In **Num 23:19** we see the only negative aspect of God (i.e., what He *cannot* do; what He *is not*). Titus 1:2 (Heb 6:18) tell us that it is *impossible* for God to lie. God cannot do what is against His nature.

The real question is, “Who IS God?” “What CAN He do?” “What does He want?” In Psalm 139, David gives us a very good look into these real (*positive*) characteristics of God.

I. GOD IS OMNISCIENT (“What He Knows”) (v. 1-6):

- A. *He Knows Each Person (v. 1)*! You have *searched* me (investigated; examined thoroughly) and known me. God knows every detail of your life! He is thoroughly acquainted with your life!
- B. *He Knows Our Actions & Thoughts (v. 2-3)*! You know my downsitting (dwell, remain, sit, abide, settle, continue, return) & uprising (rise, accomplish, endure). These are my very basic daily actions. You know when I sit & stand...*everything*! **Acts 17:27-28** - “He is not far from each of us...for in Him we live & move & have our being.” You know my thoughts!
 - * How comfortable would you be knowing that someone could read your mind...could know your thoughts?
 - * Are your thoughts worthy to be known?
 - * *Would God want to know your thoughts? (Mt 12:36 – we will give account for ‘every idle word’)*
- C. *He Knows Our Words (v. 4)*! Nothing we say can escape God’s notice (how could it, considering he knows our *thoughts*?)
- D. *He Knows & is in Control (v. 5)* “beset me behind & before” – military terminology (encompassed on all sides). There is no escape from His presence. (transition from Omniscience to Omnipresence)
- E. (v. 6) No wonder David says, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me...I can’t attain to it!” (knowing what God knows)

II. GOD IS OMNIPRESENCE (“Where He Is”) (v. 7-12):

- A. *He’s in the highest and lowest places (v. 7-8)*. Where can I go from thy spirit? He’s in the heavens & the grave (extremes). **Jn 4:24**—He is spirit; He is everywhere. There is no escaping God, although many try to. (cf. Prodigal son’s ‘far country’).
- B. *He’s in all points in between (v. 9-10)*. “Wings of the morning” – probably refers to the entrance of morning (sunlight). If I take the fastest vessel known to man (speed of light) and escape to the most remote place known to man (uttermost parts of the sea), even there, it still wouldn’t work! Even there, God’s hand is still on me, to lead me and hold me!
- C. *He’s in the darkness (v. 11-12)*. If you think God can’t see you in the dark, know this...even the darkness itself can’t hide! Again, there’s no escaping His presence. This fact elicits one of two reactions from us as His creation:
 - 1. Fear – for those who do not obey Him – they can never find a place where He is not!
 - 2. Comfort – for those who love Him –there’s no place where He is not there with us; where He cannot hear our prayer!

III. **GOD IS OMNIPOTENT (“What He’s Done”) (v. 13-18):**

- A. We often say that a certain person is very “*creative*.” We use this term accommodatively. We create *nothing*! We can only manipulate what God has already created! “Matter cannot be created or destroyed.” Everything that exists, He made.
- B. *He created me* (v. 13-16)
 - 1. (v. 13) Thou hast created (not “possessed”) my reins (“kidneys,” inner parts, inner being, heart/soul).
 - 2. Thou hast covered me (weave together; by implication, protect). *Thou* hast woven me into the womb!
 - 3. (v. 14) Praise God for this creation! I’m fearfully (reverence) & wonderfully (distinguish, separate, wonderful) made. The human body is still beyond complete comprehension - the most intricate, detailed, fascinating object in existence!
 - 4. (v. 15) My body was formed in secret (in the womb- so much is going on unseen), but it was not hidden from God.
 - 5. (v. 16) “my substance...unperfect” (Thayer: embryo; fetus) - God saw “my fetus,” David’s fetus! – it was human! God knew all the details of my body/life...when none of it existed yet.
- C. *His thoughts toward me* (v. 17-18) - They are too great and too many to be counted. But they are very precious (valuable). Compare the parents’ thoughts for their child – all that they think about in preparation for having & taking care of them!

IV. **GOD IS OMNI-RIGHTEOUS (“What He Will Do”) (v. 19-24):**

The transition to God’s all-righteousness may be because David sees and acknowledges how God knows everything (including our sin) because He is omnipresent, and that He is all-powerful (able to punish and reward). *But will He?*

- A. *Punishment for the wicked* (v. 19-22)
 - 1. (v. 19-20) David acknowledges the separation between God and the wicked.
 - a. God *will* slay the wicked. So depart from me, bloody men! It is not good to be around evil people, even if you aren’t participating. Evil companions corrupt good morals (**1 Cor 15:33**). Lot would’ve been killed in Sodom...
 - b. They speak against thee, and take thy name in vain. Two good reasons for him to avoid these people. How is this done today? How are we *in* the world, but not *of* the world? How do we avoid these people today? We still have the obligation to teach all, but we must be wise enough to understand when we are giving God’s pearls to swine.
 - 2. (v. 21-22) David sides with God, knowing God’s omni-righteousness (that He will judge all)
 - a. I hate them that hate thee. I’m grieved with those that rise up against thee.
 - b. Hatred here is defined not as the type that results in evil actions, but that results in grieving and bad feelings.
 - c. It is perfect (complete) hatred. I don’t approve of a single thing they do.
 - d. Your enemies are *my* enemies. Who will you side with? Is this the attitude we take when we back down from teaching someone the truth about God? Or when we ignore things that are said falsely about God?
- B. *Life for the righteous* (v. 23-24)
 - 1. Submission to God’s judgment – “Search me, know my heart, try me, know my thoughts...” This *will* happen!
 - 2. See if there is any wicked way in me. Are *you* willing to open yourself to this type of scrutiny before God?
 - 3. Lead me in the way everlasting...the way only God knows!

CONCLUSION: God is all-knowing, ever-present, all-powerful, and all-righteous. He knows you, your life, your actions, your thoughts. And He will judge you accordingly. Are you ready and willing to tell God to search all your thoughts and actions? If not, what will it take to make you ready?