

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 139 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We are told that David wrote this Psalm and it is a very introspective Psalm you might say. David is calling for God to search his life and as David deals with this he is showing us some of the powerful attributes of God. As you read through this Psalm it can be broken down into four sections of six verses each.

David starts out in this first section by looking at the *OMNISCIENCE* of God or that God is all knowing. Then he moves on to speak of the *OMNIPRESENCE* of God or that God's presence fills the universe. The third section that David deals with in regards to God is that He is *OMNIPOTENT* or that He is all powerful. And then, in the fourth and last section of this Psalm David sums things up for us as he puts things in proper perspective and leaves with a prayer and a desire to apply these things to his life. So let's begin reading in Psalm 139, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study through His Word.

PSALM 139**VERSES 1-6**

1. As I have said, these first six verses deal with the omniscience of God. Now I don't think many Christians believe that God is omniscient or that He is all knowing. "Pastor Joe, how can you say that?" It is easy; I don't think many Christians believe that God is omniscient or that He is all knowing. The reason I say that is because I look at where Christians go to for help, where the church sends them for help!

Where do they go? The local psychiatrist or the local psychologist they and they are ready to lay down on his couch so he can give them the answers to their problems. Please understand that it is a crap shoot for these people. They try different things to see if they work and if they do, great and if they don't they will try something else until they get it right.

Instead of climbing onto the couch of these men, why don't you climb into the lap of the living God who knows you better than you know yourself? David is saying that God knows us intimately. He knows everything about us. In fact, when David says that God understands my thoughts "**afar off**" the Hebrew is saying that He knows them from their origins. He knows them before we speak them and He knows the motives behind them. Thus, instead of bringing our problems to people who can't even handle their own problems, instead of bringing our problems to people who don't know us at all, bring them before a God who knows us better than we know ourselves.

You may wonder how God can show us these things and I think Paul gives to us the answer. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 2:10-13, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”**

You see, the Holy Spirit along with the Word of God will reveal to us what is in our heart. We can't know it on our own nor can any man, I don't care how many degrees he has! It is as Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us, **“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.”** Never forget that. You want help for your mental health, bring it to the Lord, He is the great physician! Only the Lord knows what is in our heart, and as we spend time with Him He reveals our heart to us, and we see its wickedness. And God begins to purge us, cleanse us, as we see what we are really like and move to be what God wants us to be like.

2. Let's think about this for a minute. There are over 6 billion people in the world and God knows everyone of them, He knows the number of hairs upon their heads! It is as one writer put it, "There is nothing He does not know. Though limitless the universe and gloriously grand, He knows the eternal story of every grain of sand." Nothing is hidden from Him, He knows everything!

3. Now that can be scary if you are living contrary to the ways of God, but if you love Him then that should be very comforting. You see, as David looks over his life he sees the hand of God. As David remembers back he sees how God delivered him from various situations and how God took a shepherd boy and made him King. He looks ahead and he sees God's plan for his life, the promises that God made to him. And he looks at the situation that he is now in, and he also sees the hand of God upon his life.

4. When we try to figure God out, His infinite knowledge, we short-circuit our brain. It blows us a way and like David said, "**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.**" Psalm 139:6. If we could figure this out, then would God be omniscient? No, His brain capacity, if I can use that term, would be equal to ours, but it is not. It is beyond anything we can imagine. Thus, when we have come to that place where we just don't know what to do, when we have reached the frontier of our capacity to understand a situation, we can bow the knee and come before our God so that He may speak to our hearts! God's knowledge is infinite!

VERSES 7-12

1. In these next six verses David is speaking of the omnipresence of God, that His presence fills the universe! And to illustrate this for us David tells us that no matter where he goes, no matter how good his hiding place is, even in the pitch darkness, God is there and he sees me. Yes, the darkness is as the light, He can see you even in pitch darkness! No matter what you can't hide from Him. Hebrews 4:13 expounds on this idea, as Paul says **“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”**

2. Now please understand that when we say that God's presence fills the universe we are not speaking of pantheism. And just to clarify, pantheism is the view that God is everything and everyone and that everyone and everything is God. Pantheism is similar to polytheism (the belief in many gods), but goes beyond polytheism to teach that everything is God. A tree is God, a rock is God, an animal is God, the sky is God, the sun is God, you are God, etc. Pantheism is the supposition or belief behind many cults and false religions (e.g., Hinduism and Buddhism to an extent, the various unity and unification cults, and “mother nature” worshippers).

Remember the story of Ben-Hadad, King of Syria, who came against King Ahab and the Northern Kingdom of Israel and were defeated. As the Syrians re-grouped and planned another attack in the spring, his servants said to Ben-Hadad, **“... ‘Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they.’”** I Kings 20:23.

You see, they believed in local gods, and so if you fought the enemy where their god was not located, you could easily defeat them. That is not the God of Israel. That is not the God we serve. He is not a local God, He is not a plant or tree or rock, but His presence fills the universe. There is One God manifested in three distinct persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

Thus, you can't escape from the presence of God's Spirit, because God fills the universe. No matter where you go, God's Spirit is there! The Spirit of God is everywhere, His presence is everywhere.

Now, in response to what the Syrians believed, we are told, **“Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Because the Syrians have said, ‘The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys,’ therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.””**” I Kings 20:28. And God gave Israel another victory over the Syrians, because He is Lord over all, His presence fills the universe!

We also see this played out for us in Jeremiah 22:23-24 which says, **“Am I a God near at hand,’ says the LORD, ‘And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?’ says the LORD; ‘Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ says the LORD.”** Our God is omnipresent, His presence fills the universe!

VERSES 13-18

1. Now we see in these six verses David speak of the omnipotence of God or that God is all powerful! Psalm 115:3 says, “**But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.**” And to make his point of God being all powerful, he wants us to take a look at the creation of life! And this not only shows us the power of God but the love of God. David said that God was there in the womb putting all the parts together. Now some may laugh at that, but I believe it is true because we have just read that His presence fills the universe!

Let’s take a look at the creation of a life, what happens at conception. What takes place is that the 23 chromosomes from the sperm unite with the 23 chromosomes of the egg, bringing all the information together that is needed for us to grow, all encoded in the DNA. One write put it like this, “Ironically, as evolutionists scan the heavens for signs of intelligent life, they overlook the most obvious evidence for intelligent design: the DNA molecule. This molecular string of information is far more complex than radio or optical signals. It is *unnaturally* complex in size and function. The human DNA code of 46 complicated molecular strands composed of millions of nucleotides arranged in a specific sequence is packed with information (estimated to be equivalent to 1,000 volumes of books, 500 pp each, 9 pt letter size).

Life functions by design with incredible complexity, and this complexity is coded for in the DNA molecule. Random, natural events cannot duplicate the complicated design found in life.” (<http://www.uark.edu/~cdm/creation/idt.htm>). And yet today we have many who want to believe that life just happened by random chance!

But that is just foolishness. Let me explain with this article. We are told,

The earliest known life form, **before which nothing has ever been found**, is a type of bacterium. These have been dated by scientists as being alive on the Earth approximately 3.8 billion years ago. Despite their size being measured in the *millionths of a meter*, a bacterium is of a level of functional complexity on the order of an F-15 fighter bomber (actually that is *understated*). Dr. Robert Hazen: “The simplest living cell is intricate beyond imagining . . . human brains seem ill-suited to grasp such multi-dimensional complexity.” Dr. Michael Denton: “each is a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of elegantly designed pieces of molecular machinery . . . far more complicated than any machinery built by man and without parallel in the non-living world.” Dr. Paul Davies: “[bacteria] have a fine tuning and complexity as yet unmatched by human engineering.” Perhaps it is best summed up by Ilya Prigogine, winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1977: “But let us have no illusions... [we are still] unable to grasp the extreme complexity of the simplest of organisms.”

<http://www.algemeiner.com/2011/08/17/scientists-prove-again-that-life-is-the-result-of-intelligent-design/>).

Not only that, but again, God has given us a brain, let's use it. "When we come to examine the simplest known organism capable of independent existence, the situation becomes even more fantastic. In the DNA chain of the chromosome of the bacterium *E. coli*, a favorite organism used by molecular biologists, the [DNA] helix consists of 3-4 million base pairs. These are all arranged in a sequence that is 'meaningful' in the sense that it gives rise to enzyme molecules which fit the various metabolites and products used by the cell. This unique sequence represents a choice of one out of $10^{2,000,000}$ alternative ways of arranging the bases! We are compelled to conclude that the origin of the first life was a unique event, which cannot be discussed in terms of probability." (Ambrose, E. *The Nature and Origin of the Biological World*, p. 135).

And think about it. They can't discuss it in terms of probability because it is improbable for life to come together from non-life, even in the simplest form! I don't want this to be a science lesson, but I want you to see that we are fearfully and wonderfully made! We are told,

Notice that this refers only to the correct arrangement of already formed bases. Harold J. Morowitz, Professor of Biophysics at Yale University, has taken into account the covalent bond energies required to actually form such a DNA molecule. He arrives at a probability figure for the spontaneous formation of one complete bacterium of *Escherichia coli* in the history of the universe, of less than one chance in 10 to the power 100 billion (which can be written $10^{-100,000,000,000}$).

Such numbers are far too large for most people to comprehend. However, Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge University, and not a Christian, illustrates the point this way. “Now imagine 10^{50} blind persons [that’s 100,000 billion billion billion billion billion people - standing shoulder to shoulder, they would more than fill our entire planetary system] each with a scrambled Rubik cube and try to conceive of the chance of them all simultaneously arriving at the solved form. You then have the chance of arriving by random shuffling [random variation] of just one of the many biopolymers on which life depends. The notion that not only the biopolymers but the operating program of a living cell could be arrived at by chance in a primordial soup here on Earth is evidently nonsense of a high order.”

The late Dr. A. E. Wilder-Smith makes this thought-provoking and humbling statement,

“Imagine being given the task of constructing any living animal from scratch, using carbon, calcium, water, etc. It boggles the mind. Now imagine miniaturizing the program to grow it and run it. All the chemical information needed to construct an elephant is contained in a tiny speck (the fertilized egg cell).

When one considers that the entire chemical information to construct a man, elephant, frog, or an orchid was compressed into two minuscule reproductive cells [sperm and egg nuclei], one can only be astounded.

In addition to this, all the information is available on the genes to *repair* the body (not only to construct it) when it is injured. If one were to request an engineer to accomplish this feat of information miniaturization, one would be considered fit for the psychiatric clinic.”

I think you get the idea! And we can go on; we just scratched the surface regarding the complexity of life! But let's face it, when you study life, you can't help but see how fearfully and wonderfully we are made! Our brains, which weigh some 3 pounds, is composed of 12 billion neurons each connected to about ten-thousand other neurons in the most complicated arrangement known to man. There are 120 trillion connections in the human brain, and not by random chance!

If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end-to-end, they would reach some 60,000 miles! And it is amazing to watch live pictures of the human cell dividing, each cell knowing exactly what to do, for it has been encoded by our master, the Lord. And then, at the end of 9 months, this child that has been developing in the womb takes his first breath out of the womb, and we see a miracle take place before our very eyes.

In a book called "A Child Is born" the author says, "How can the cells of a developing embryo know what they are going to be? How can the cells that have never seen a hand, let alone made one, know what to do? Nobody can give exact answers to these questions yet, but we are beginning to understand roughly what happens."

It is amazing how these learned men can't explain it but I can! I can tell you how it happens, God has formed us! David, not able to see what we see today, and yet he recognized that God put us together, his soul attests to this fact.

It always amazes me, and it really shouldn't, how intelligent men and women that deal with the sciences and see the complexity of life, that there is design built into it, can just ignore the facts and say all life came about by random chance happenings! Paul was right when he said, "**Professing to be wise, they became fools.**" Romans 1:22.

2. And think about this, when David is speaking of God forming him in the secret places, where no one can see, what is he speaking of? He is speaking of the mother's womb!

That is supposed to be the safest place on earth for this unborn child and yet, in America and around the world, it has become one of the most dangerous places to be!

What do I mean? I mean that every single day in America over 3,000 babies are murdered in the womb. Can you imagine if some terrorist killed 3,000 people in America in one day what we would do! We would be outraged and we went to war over the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed 3,000 innocent people in one day. And yet, we are oblivious to the slaughter of innocent children every day in America, we are silent, we don't hear their screams, but God does and He will hold us accountable. The One who formed us in the womb is aware!

3. Not only that, but before David even took his first breath outside the womb, God had a plan for his life! In Jeremiah 1:5 we read of God speaking to Jeremiah of this very thing and saying, "**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.**" Do you believe that before you were even born that God had a plan for your life? You should because He does.

Thus, may you seek Him and find out the plans He has for your life, the things He wants you to do. Also, this means that as soon as that egg is fertilized, as soon as the sperm and egg come together, life begins!

Also, some 150 to 200 years before Cyrus was born, God called him by name and laid out the work he was to do. In Isaiah 45:1-7 we read, **“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held; To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. For Jacob My servant's sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.”** My point is this; God is saying that life begins at conception. Let’s not destroy that gift through abortion, for it is murder! Life does begin at conception no matter what the Supreme Court or the world may say!

4. In verses 17 and 18 we see God speak of how precious our thoughts are to Him and David links them to the number of sand in the sea and that our thoughts would be even more in number! Some have estimated that the number of grains of sand on this earth is 10^{25} power. That means if God were to think of us billions of times a second, He would do so for several thousand years.

I think the point is this. God is not distant, but He loves us and is concerned about us. He knows the little things about us, like how many hairs we have upon our head, and if He is that concerned about the little things, how much more for life's difficult situations!

It is as David said in Psalm 40:5, "**Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered.**" Imagine, with all the billions of people living today, we are all important to Him. And I love this verse in Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "**For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**" That is our God!

VERSES 19-22

1. After David contemplates the omniscience of God, the omnipresence of God, the omnipotence of God, he looks at those who are coming against God and he sees them as ants before Almighty God! And David is now praying for the destruction of the wicked, those that mock God, speak against Him. Jesus tells us that we are to love our enemies, to pray for them. That does not mean we are to accept their sin. We are to love the sinner, reach out to them, share Christ with them, but hate the sin.

Think about that for a minute. If you laugh at dirty jokes, go with people to see dirty movies, join in with their dirty language, and-so-on, you are saying what they are doing is okay; you are giving your stamp of approval on their behavior. We need to stand up for what is right, not in a haughty way, but in love, explaining to them why we don't want to partake in their actions.

2. Now many like to come down upon David for what he is praying for and say that he is an Old Testament saint and not like we are to be, New Testament saints, like I have said. But I disagree. Edward Young put it like this and I think he shows us where we stand when we pray. He wrote,

Before we proceed to condemn David for this prayer, it is well to note that we ourselves pray for the same thing, whenever we pray the words of the Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come, They will be done."

- Edward J. Young, Psalm 139, p. 95

That is the correct perspective because for God's Kingdom to be established, He will do away with the wicked. Now we do pray that the wicked will get saved, but we also understand that many will not and thus, their ultimate end is Outer Darkness, the Lake of Fire.

3. I realize that this may make you angry and you may not agree with me on this, but show me scripturally where I am wrong. What I do hear is, “I just feel this is okay for me” or something along those lines. So here it is. The wicked are not to be our close, intimate friends. In fact, David says that they are our enemy in verse 22! What the church has done today is made the unsaved part of the family, and in doing so, they feel no need to repent of their sin, for they feel they are saved. That is wrong! Love them, pray for them, but don’t make them comfortable about going to Hell! Don’t go to them for advice because they will give you worldly advice and not what the Scriptures are saying!

If you still doubt what I am saying, then listen to what Paul said in II Corinthians 6:14-18, **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’ ‘I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.’”**

I think that is pretty clear. It is not that we can't associate ourselves with them, but they are not our close friends because they are at war with God. "No, my unsaved friends are not at war with God!" Yes they are for if they are not for God then they are against God! As Jesus said in Luke 11:23, "**He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.**" Be careful, they will bring you down if you walk, stand and sit with them. See Psalm 1 if you doubt that! We are to be in the world and not of the world. That is how we are to function, but when the world gets in us, just like water getting into a boat, we will be sunk!

4. Now please note that David's anger against the wicked was not born out of evil emotions but truly out of the heart of God for God hates wickedness. But what if David's emotions got the better of him? What if our emotions get the better of us? Look at these last two verses and you will see what David did and what we should do.

VERSES 23-24

1. Now David is asking God to help him apply these truths to his life. He is asking God to open his heart so that he may see if there is any wickedness in it. He wants to go down that road to everlasting life. He wants those areas of wickedness that are hidden deep down in his heart to be revealed by God so that he can purge them out of his life. What a good principle to follow; let the all knowing, omnipresent, and all powerful God mold us into His image! And when our anger, when our emotions begin to get out of control, bring it to the Lord and let Him show you your heart to see what is there so you can give it to Him!

PSALM 140

In this Psalm David is praying for God to deliver him from the violence that those close to him are doing to him. This Psalm could have been written out of Absalom's rebellion against his father, David or just that people, for whatever reason were coming against David. We have been there and let's see the lessons that God has for us through David.

VERSES 1-3

1. Again, we are not sure exactly what David was going through here but you can see that his prayer is focused upon the Lord to deliver him from these people who were coming against him, plotting against him, speaking evil of him.
2. Make no mistake about it, the tongue, the words we speak can be very deadly! When I was young, and you probably said this too when someone was coming against you with nasty words, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me!" But that is not true. Broken bones can heal but the wounds of words can last a lifetime.

Look at how that plays out today. We see kids committing suicide because they have been bullied, the words killed them! We saw that nurse in England who thought the queen was on the phone asking how her daughter-in-law was doing in the hospital and she gave out the information not knowing it was a radio show from Australia pulling this prank on her. She also committed suicide! So words can be deadly!

James tells us we can control large animals by placing bits in their mouths. We can turn huge ships by just using a small rudder. But the tongue, just a small member of our body, and yet it causes great destruction by slandering people, putting people down, gossip and-so-on.

He says, **“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”** James 3:8. That is true. No man can tame the tongue but God can if we are willing to surrender to Him and listen to what He wants us to say. Be careful, don’t speak words that will tear down, devour another, hurt them, but as Paul said in Colossians 4:6, **“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.”**

We must be careful in what we say to people. I’m sure that there have been many times that we wish we would have kept silent instead of speaking. Ask God to help you in this area. And think about this for a minute. Don’t we all need help in this area? Of course we do, I can’t believe there are any that don’t need help in this area in controlling this wild beast we call the tongue!

3. David has said a lot in these first three verses and thus we see this word, **“Selah”** and it speaks of a pause, a rest, a time of reflection. David wants the reader or singer to pause and reflect on these words for a minute before moving on.

VERSES 4-5

1. Back in Psalm 139 we saw David speak of God's omniscience, His omnipresence, His omnipotence and because of David knowing that, He lifts these prayers to Him. He knows he can't do it but the Lord can and once you know that, once you believe that, you can rest in Him.

And think about what the enemy wants to do to us, just like he wanted to do to David. The purpose of any enemy is to capture and destroy. The enemy will set traps to get us to stumble, to capture us. Thus, we need to be careful in how we walk. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:15-16, "**See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**"

We are to walk carefully, pay attention to what is happening around us, where we are walking because the days are evil, it is dangerous and you don't want to be drawn into it. Be wise with what you watch, be wise on the Internet, be wise with your relationships at work, just be wise! And as we are walking carefully we also need to take advantage of the days we are living in, the opportunities that come our way. We shouldn't cower and hide ourselves but buy up the time, use it for God's glory, to bring people into the kingdom of God – to shine forth our faith! Jesus said in Matthew 24:12, "**And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**" We see that today and yet, we can extend to people the love of God that is found in Jesus! Yes, the enemy has set snares all around us, therefore, watch where you are walking, pay attention to what you are doing, because the days are evil!

VERSES 6-8

1. I think most of us would agree that protecting your head from weapons of war is very important. As a soldier it was important to protect the vital areas of your body, and your head was one of them, besides your heart and chest area. Most battles were fought in hand-to-hand combat and the soldier would just fling around this broad sword, the RHOMPHAIA, which when it connected with a person's skull, it would crush it or split it in two. And David is asking God to cover his head, protect it from the enemy.

Now how does that relate to us? Paul tells us that we, as Christians, are to **“... take the helmet of salvation ...”** and keep it in readiness on a daily basis.

What Paul is saying to us is we need to protect our minds from the double-edged broad sword that Satan swings at us, which is made up of doubts and discouragements, that garbage that he will hit us with and confuse us with. We need to know that our salvation is by grace, it is a gift of God. Too often we place our heads on the chopping block and allow Satan to crush us with lies that say, “You are not good enough for God!” Of course we are not good enough, that is why salvation is a gift, we don't deserve it, but He has freely given it to us. Put on the helmet of salvation on a daily basis because ***IT IS A WAR OUT THERE!***

2. Now in verse 8 David is speaking of the prosperity of the wicked and the conclusions they come to because of that prosperity. You see, as the wicked prosper they see no need for God. It is only when all has been taken away that they see the need to look up, to come before God. And David is just asking God not to bless them so they won't see themselves bigger than they should.

VERSES 9-11

1. David is asking God to turn the tables on these wicked men. To do to them as they wanted to do to David.

VERSES 12-13

1. As David concludes this Psalm he does so with confidence in the righteous Lord. David fully understands that the righteous will prevail in the end. Thus, in the midst of crisis, it is always better to fall back on the truths of God than to be misled by your emotions, your feelings. We need to keep the various situations we find ourselves in with the proper perspective of God, and the only way to do that is by knowing God's truth found in His Word, and believing it by faith! As I John 5:4 says, "**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.**" May we not lose sight of that!

PSALM 141

Psalm 141 is interesting in that David is asking the Lord to guard what comes out of his mouth, that he doesn't speak foolishly. I love David, for he is like you and me. We are no different in the struggles we go through. So let's read through this Psalm and see what we can glean from it!

VERSES 1-2

1. Whatever David was going through he was asking God to answer his prayer quickly, speedily. There is nothing wrong with doing that, just understand that God is sovereign and He will do what is best. But we can cry out to Him and He not only hears our hearts cry, but He will also answer those things we are lifting up to Him!

2. We also see David speak of prayer and praise being like incense, something that was pleasing to the Lord. We do see this in the Old Testament of prayer being as incense rising up before God, a sweet smelling aroma. That tells me our prayers are pleasing to God! In the New Testament, in Revelation chapter 5, as John is in heaven before the throne of God, and the Lamb has taken the scroll out of the Father's hand, we see the 24 elders, which represent the church do the following.

“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” Revelation 5:8. The incense in those bowls were the prayers of the saints!

Also, in Revelation 8:3-4 we read, **“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.”** These could be our prayers of asking for God's Kingdom to be established here on earth, for judgment and the Kingdom Age are the focus here.

Not only is our prayer and praise like incense but the lifting up of our hands unto God is like the evening sacrifice, praising and offering ourselves to God. Paul tells us in I Timothy 2:8, “**I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands . . .**”

Now some are not impressed by this but please understand that our outward acts of worship show what is in our heart, the love of God that just overflows in our lives. So this is important!

VERSES 3-4

1. Remember the prayer in the first two verses of this Psalm that David made and then he speaks of God helping him not to say evil things, to keep his heart from evil, not to do wicked things and not partake of the activities of wicked men. Yes they may be fun to do, they may try to draw you in, but David saw the danger and asked God to help him not go down that path!

How many times have we said things that we wish we wouldn't have? David is asking God to guard what flows from his lips. As Christians, James makes an interesting point that should cause us to look deeply into our own hearts. He said in James 3:9-10 regarding the tongue, “**With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.**” Something we should think about, especially before we begin to speak!

VERSE 5

1. Now I don't think many of us would pray what David is praying here, but we should. David is asking that if he is in error that the wicked would not expose his sin, but the righteous would. You see, with the righteous there is compassion, love, mercy. How is that seen? It is seen in their reproof, at least it should be.

Paul said in Galatians 6:1, **“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”** That word, **“restore”** in the Greek is a medical term that speaks of setting a broken bone. If a believer is overtaken by sin, we are to reset them in love, with gentleness, back on track. We must remember that we too can easily be overtaken and we would want that same love extended to us. The oil that David is speaking of was used for healing and that is what reproof should be in our life.

2. Now the end of this verse is somewhat confusing. Some feel that David was praying for his enemies but that doesn't fit because in verse 10 he is going to say, **“Let the wicked fall into their own nets, While I escape safely.”** He is not praying for their well-being but for the wicked to be destroyed by their own nets! I think Darby translates this verse correctly as he said, “for yet my prayer also is [for them] in their calamities.” In other words, David was praying for those who rebuked him for his sin in kindness. He was praying for them when trouble came into their life! It does seem to fit what David was saying previously in verse 5.

VERSES 6-7

1. On the other end of the spectrum, the wicked, when they meet their end, when judgment comes upon their lives, they will see that the words of David were correct.

2. Now as bad as these enemies were, as much trouble as they brought to David, listen to where his focus was at as we finish up this Psalm.

VERSES 8-10

1. What a powerful lesson for us to learn. David, even though trouble was all around him, rested in the Lord. You see, his hope, his eyes, were focused on the Lord and not the situation, not what he was going to do, but just the Lord.

Folk's, let's face it; we are going to face some difficult times in our lives. There may be times we see no way out. We see the enemies of our lives surround us, no matter what they may be. But hear me out on this. No matter the situation, we must keep focused on Him. Remember what the Lord said in Isaiah 41:10? He wrote, "**Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.**" We probably know that verse; do we believe it to the point of resting in Him? I hope so!

What about Romans 8:28 where Paul tells us, "**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**" That is a great verse to share with others who are going through a difficult time but what about us? Do we truly believe what God is saying here, that we can "**know**" all these things that are happening to us are for good!

Now some may argue, “No, we can never know!” I disagree. I may not see how good will come out of this. I may not feel that any good will come out of this. But I can know that good will come out of this! How can I know? Because that is what God’s Word has told us and we can rest in that, we can rest in Him!

2. As David concludes this Psalm he not only asks God to protect him but to let the wicked fall into their own trap. He is asking God to turn the tables on his enemies. To do to them what they were going to do to him. Paul said in II Corinthians 2:11, **“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.”** That word **“devices”** speaks of mind games, and that is one of the areas that Satan uses to get us messed up. Keep focused on the Lord and let His Word keep your mind focused in the truth and not become confused over what you are going through. Put on the helmet of salvation! May we look to the Lord for our deliverance!