

'manifesto' = Public declaration of your core beliefs, intentions, and motives

Declaration of Independence is a Manifesto that declares "self-evident" truths

- Human equality and unalienable rights and justifies a radical break from the British

**Powerful text – 'Spiritual Manifesto' = Human value and divine providence**

- Power of inherent worth – 'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made'
- Power of purpose over accident - No human life is a mistake or "random" occurrence
  - My wife was pregnant walking down isle (testimony) surprise? Yes. Mistake? No.
- Power of intimate connection – Describes God's thoughts as "vast" and "precious."
  - This text is a declaration of your value – You were carefully made in God's image
  - This text is a declaration pro-life – Womb to tomb life is provided and protected
  - This text is a declaration that people are unique in God's economy...cherished

**Big Idea - From Beginning to End Your Life has Unshakable Worth | READ**

David is writing a radical disposition on the worth of the human life...unknown at time

- Ancient Near East value estimated: Status, gender, physical strength, family lineage
  - The unborn, infants, disabled, poor, women had little value – Text = fly in ointment

**We live in a society that has the stench of the same values – People ask 'Who am I'**

- Some try answer question through achievement, identity, relationships, or approval
- Others quietly wonder if lives really matter at all...you matter...you matter to God

Psalm 139 reminds us God has answered the question 'Who am I'

- David shows us that our lives are not accidents, interruptions, or afterthoughts.
- We are intentionally created, personally known, lovingly sustained by God | 3 ways

## 1. Life begins with God's created hand (13-15)

<sup>13</sup>For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

- 'When does life begin' is a question hotly debated in political and social circles
- Text answers that question – Life begins at conception...must be protected at fertilization
- Appalling state – No gestational limits – No waiting periods – No parental consent

I want to be clear – Abortion is a sin, but it is not the unforgivable sin | 1 in 4 | Gospel

**All Christians should vote for legislation that makes abortion more difficult...illegal**

"Formed" speaks of intentional design - "Knitted" pictures careful, skillful craftsmanship

Womb is not merely a biological environment—it is God's workshop...not mass produced

- This Truth protects the unborn – The disabled – The elderly – and the vulnerable
- <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. David begins with worship – 'I praise you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made'

- 'Fearfully' = reverence and awe | 'Wonderfully' = Distinct / Marvelous / Set apart
- Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

- God saw you before anyone else did...before an ultrasound could pick you up...God
- In recent years, scientists have mapped the human genome – inside every cell = DNA
- Microscopic code billions information | Eye -Hair – Height – Immune response – heal
  - If you stretched out all the DNA in your body 37 trillion cells – Sun and back over 60x

That is 'you were intricately woven in the depths of the earth'

**Takeaway - Embrace your God given value | Three ways to do that...**

- a. **Reject the lie that you were a mistake** – Life has dignity because God formed you
- b. **Let God's Truth shape your understanding** – I don't care what culture says about life
- c. **Trust God with the unfinished parts of your story** – What He begins...complete

## 2. Life is directed by God's sovereign plan (16)

<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

**Sovereign = God's absolute right and power to exercise authority over His entire creation**

⇒ **Authority** = As the Creator, God has the legal and moral right to govern everything

⇒ **Control** = God has the power to ensure His will is accomplished

⇒ **Presence** = God is personally involved in His creation | Property Management Co.

God sovereignly knows, plans, and governs our lives from before we exist

I'm going to give you three things that are true from this text that are mind-blowing

- a. **God knows us before we were formed** - 'Your eyes saw my unformed substance'
  - David is saying, God saw your birthday before you were conceived – Before creation
- b. **God sovereignly plans your days** – 'In your book were written.....(Read above)'
  - God's purposeful design | Nothing in life is random, wasted, or outside God's control
  - Everything is written in the book of the creator...make it through tough chapters

Not everything is God's will, but everything is governed by God's will | Burn house down
- c. **God's plan precedes our existence** - when as yet there was none of them
  - Before David had lived a single day, God knew and ordered them – Book in middle

Psalm 139:16 assures: intentionally known, lovingly planned, and sovereignly held by God

**Takeaway - Trust God's Authorship for Life | Because God has written our days:**

- i. Life has meaning even in suffering | God has allowed or ordained for your good
- ii. Fear is answered by trust in God's wisdom | Believe God knows better than you
- iii. Hope is strengthened, because our future rests in God, not chance | Not an accident

## 3. Life is surrounded by God's constant care (17-18)

<sup>17</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

Have you ever felt like just a number – Billions of people – Pizza Hut = 4306 / 716502

- It's easy to feel insignificant, overlooked, or just a drop of water in the ocean

**This verse shows that you are a constant object of God's divine attention**

In these verses...David highlights three attributes of God's thoughts towards us:

- a. **The Quality of His Thoughts** - How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
  - Hebrew word "precious" carries the idea of something rare, weighty, or of high value

Think about your toaster – Now a loved one...who gets the more precious thought
- b. **The Quantity of His Thoughts** - How vast is the sum of them!
  - David attempts to do the "holy math" of God's mindfulness – The total calculation
  - The total number of God's thoughts towards you is uncalculatable...not a number

<sup>18</sup>If I would count them, they are more than the sand – A lot of sand... Google 10<sup>100</sup>

- c. **The Persistence of God's Thoughts** - I awake, and I am still with you.
  - This concludes the thought experiment of God – You are on God's mind constantly

While you are sleeping...on the mind of God – When you wake up...on the mind of God

**Takeaway - Let wonder replace worry**

Text = worry...How does God know me so well – Am I fated – Why did God... | Application

- i. **Rest in God's Care When You Feel Overlooked**
    - When loneliness or discouragement...preach, God is actively mindful of me right now
  - ii. **Let God's Thoughts Define Your Worth**
    - God's thoughts toward you precious...value is not productivity, success, or approval
  - iii. **Trust God When You Don't Understand His Ways** | Not always understand...trust
- When life doesn't make sense, don't assume God is absent | Spiritual Manifesto