

Sermon Title: Trusting Worship

Sermon Series: Gospel-Directed Worship

Scripture: Psalm 139

Speaker: Pastor Mike Barnhart



Psalm 139 ESV

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

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

14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 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.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!

20 They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

22 I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

You must trust God because He's in control.

4 Ways God is in Control:

1. You must trust God because He _____.

Psalm 139:1 ESV

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

Psalm 139:2–4 ESV

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Omniscience - God fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

2. You must trust God because He's _____.

Psalm 139:7–10 ESV

7 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

Jeremiah 23:24 ESV

24 Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

Omnipresence - God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

Colossians 1:17 ESV

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Psalm 139:11–12 ESV

11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

God has the power—in His presence—to turn darkness into light.

3. You must trust God because He _____
_____.

Psalm 139:13–18 ESV

13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.

14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

16 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.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

Omnipotence - God is able to do all His holy will.

Job 42:2 ESV

2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

“There is no maverick molecule if God is sovereign.”

—R.C. Sproul

Psalm 139:14–15 ESV

14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Psalm 139:16–18 ESV

16 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.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

4. You must trust God because He will _____
_____.

Psalm 139:19–22 ESV

19 Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!

20 They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.

21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

22 I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.

Omnipotent - nothing is beyond God's knowledge, presence, or power

Psalm 139:23–24 ESV

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Trust God because He's in control.

Group Discussion Questions:

Pray together.

Read Psalm 139.

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23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

3. What does this psalm teach about the nature and character of God?

4. How does the truth that God knows everything you think, speak, and do both encourage and challenge you? Why do you think it led David to praise?

5. How is the teaching that God is everywhere (omnipresent) different from the teaching that God is in everything (panentheism)? Why is the omnipresence of God true, while panentheism is false teaching about God?

6. Why would you never want to be in a place where God is not?

7. How can remembering that God planned your size, shape, and mental abilities help you view your own physical appearance and mental capabilities rightly? How does this help you view others as God does?

8. Why would it be of importance for you to develop the habit of praying verses 23-24 in particular?

9. How can God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence aid your prayers?

10. Pray for one another.