

1 

First Strophe ~ v. 1-6

2 

Our basic structure:

- 1) Study Psalm passage
- 2) Consider cultural setting
- 3) Gain New Covenant insight

3 

These weeks will build... yet...

Until COVID-19 is over, call in your questions for the *next* week.

(530) 273-1343 x214

4 

Class in session
~ Bibles open

~ Notes printed out

~ Pen in hand

5 

Outline:

1-6	you know
7-12	you are there
13-16	you formed me
17-18*	praise in wonder
19-22	your enemies, my enemies
23-24*	prayer in humility

6 

Vocabulary ~

Strophe – stanza, verse, or section

Omni – all, universal

~ science, presence, potent (power)

tonight -

Merism

7 

Merism – a poetic technique that expresses a totality by mentioning two parts; typically polar opposites... this technique provides vivid images that are meant to replace more abstract concepts such as, 'all' 'every' 'always'... yet the device is meant to be understood figuratively or metaphorically.

8 

Merism in Psalm 139

v. 2 – when I sit and when I rise
v. 3 – my path and my lying down
v. 5 – enclosed behind and before

9 

Psalm 139:1

Oh LORD, you have searched me and known me!

10 

Psalm 139:2

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

11 

"It is childish to dismiss someone's thoughts as unworthy of consideration just because they are mixed up; human beings are always trying to get at something, even when they don't know what it is. The oft-derided truth that man is a rational being does not mean that he always thinks clearly. But he is always thinking something." J. Budziszewski

12 

Psalm 139:3

You search out my path
And my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.

13 

Job 34:21

"For his eyes are on the ways of a man,
and he sees all his steps."

14 

Psalm 139:4

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

15 

Psalm 139:5

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

16 

Searched,
Discern,
Search out,

"None of these terms imply a critical, hostile, or even scrutinizing attitude toward David;
instead, they reveal the depth of Yahweh's knowledge."
Tucker and Grant ~ p.917

17 

The closeness and omniscience of Yahweh are by no means considered an absolute
blessing. According to wisdom reflections [Job] in the Near East... there is the problem of
being smothered by a towering God."

Gerstenberger p.402

18 

Psalm 139:6

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

19 

20 

On Society ~

David Foster Wallace

"Good writing should help readers become less alone inside... It seems important to find
ways of reminding ourselves that most 'familiarity' is mediated and delusive."

21 

Psalm 139:1-6 in light of the
New Covenant

Hebrews 4:13
Romans 11:33-36

Romans 8

22 

Romans 8

v. 14-17

v. 26-34

23 

The Spirit intercedes where we don't even have words

The Father is for us, and if so... who

The Son, at the righthand of the Father also intercedes... Hebrews 4:14-16