

QTC537. "You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 series part 3. 19 September 2024

"You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 Series - Part 3 | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching
Episode 537

Introduction

Do you want God to know you? Really know you? How do you feel about God searching you? Let's take some time today to consider how to process God knowing us, and learn to welcome it.

How do you feel?

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me." (Psalm 139:1 NRSV)

How do you feel about being searched and known? Perhaps it is a comfort to you. Alternatively, especially if you have had painful experiences of trusting people who proved to be untrustworthy, this kind of intimacy might be threatening. If we're going to enjoy the fullness of the promises of this Psalm, we are going to need to grasp the nettle of intimacy.

Motives

The intimidating side of being searched and known is transformed if we know the motives are healthy. I recently had a CAT scan of my jaw. Every detail of my jaw and teeth was displayed in front of the dentist. It was a bit of a shock. I am not used to seeing that perspective. However, the shock was tempered by knowing the examination came from right motives. God intends to know us for our benefit.

Jesus came to lay down his life for us as the good shepherd propelled by an excellent motive:

John 10.10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

As Packer writes:

“There is tremendous relief in knowing that His love to me is utterly realistic, based at every point on prior knowledge of the worst about me, so that no discovery now can disillusion Him about me, in the way I am so often disillusioned about myself.” *Knowing God* J I Packer

Love

God searches us *because* he loves us. What is God searching us *for*? Perhaps it is to reassure us of his acceptance:

1 John 3.20

in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

We may be self-condemning, but God knows more about the situation than us. He sees objective salvation when we see subjective condemnation.

Or, perhaps it is to provide what we need:

Psalm 23.1

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

If God is searching me to find the best ways to keep me in his love, what do I have to fear?

Open

There is all the difference between being unwillingly examined and willingly vulnerable. Our struggle is often more about emotional acceptance of truth than intellectual.

Brene Brown reminds us that love and being known are inextricably linked:

“We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honour the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness, and affection. Love is not something we give or get; it is something that we nurture and grow, a connection that can only be cultivated between two people when it exists within each one of them—we can only love others as much as we love ourselves.”

Daring Greatly, Brene Brown.

Question

How do you feel about God searching you? What would help you welcome his search, cooperate, and enjoy it?

Suggestion

Ask God in prayer today to create a deep sense of security within you as he searches you. Look up Scriptures that connect with the themes of knowing God and God knowing us. For example,

John 17.3

““This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Conclusion

Next time, we will move on to verse 2.

I am planning a spiritual experience day based on Psalm 139 in the spring of 2025. If you'd be interested, please email me at malcolm@malcomcox.org.

Your brother, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

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