

HAMMER IT HOME: *Live the Text and Do the Truth*

Some final application questions:

1. Do gain your sense of worth from God's Word, or from the world? What will you do to address this?
2. What particular attribute of God in this Psalm impacted you the most today and why?
3. The entire psalm, but especially the third stanza, has significant implications for the value of life. On this day designated as Sanctity of Life Sunday, what can we do to both **affirm** this truth and **make a difference** in our world? And as we go to prayer, make this a key emphasis in your prayer time.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: *Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly*

“For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

—Psalm 139:13, 14a

Sunday, January 17, 2021



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made *Finding Our True Identity in His Transcendent Majesty*

“For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

—Psalm 139:13, 14a

HEAR IT: *Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth*

1. In pastors introduction this morning he made the statement, “God’s **Word determines our worth.**” Why is that so important? Where do men and women frequently or commonly look to get their sense of worth or identity today? And what are the consequences of finding our identity from other places?
2. A second statement made in the introduction to Psalm 139 was that “**the rich theology of this Psalm is both profound and personal.**” What was meant by this? And what are some of the key indicators in the text of the personal nature of this rich theology?
 - What is the difference between “**knowing about God**” and “**knowing God**?” And what are the consequences of that difference?

READ AGAIN PSALM 139

Suggestion: Have four different people read one of the stanzas (v. 1-6, 7-12, 13-18, 19-24)

There are four major *movements* or *strophes* in this Psalm. The first three stanzas share a common focus of **adoration** as David praises God for Who He is. In doing so, he touches on three of God's supreme attributes and the implications of each for **how we think about God** and **how we think about ourselves**. Consider each one, spending sufficient time for reflection, and recalling insights or points shared in the sermon:

1. GOD'S OMNISCIENCE: HE KNOWS ME INTIMATELY. (V. 1-6)

a. What does this first stanza reveal about God's knowledge, and in particular, His knowledge of us?

b. How does David respond to this truth and how should we?

2. GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE: HE IS WITH ME IMMANENTLY. (V. 7-12)

a. What does this second stanza reveal about God's presence, and in particular, His relationship to us?

b. How does David respond to this truth and how should we?

3. GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE: HE MADE ME INTRICATELY. (V. 13-18)

a. What does this third stanza reveal about God's power, and in particular, His relationship to us as Maker?

b. How does David respond to this truth and how should we?

The *fourth major movement* or *strophe* in this Psalm shifts the focus from **adoration** to **aspiration**, as David expresses his heart to God. (v. 19-24)

a. In the first lines of this final stanza (V.19-22), David declares how his heart is **aligned** with God's heart. **How is his heart aligned and why is this significant? Does**

b. In the final lines of this final stanza (V.23-24), David **submits** his heart to God for on-going examination and transformation. What does this tell us about our heart and the need for vigilance in caring for our own heart?

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way."*

c. The Psalm ends where it began. It opened with the **acknowledgment** that God does search us and know us. It ends with a **plea** for God to search us and know us. What is the difference between the opening and the closing verses?