

9/6/2015

Lord's Day Service Message

God Knows You

Psalm 139:1-14

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

⁵ You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

During a census, a mother was asked by a census taker how many children she had. She had a very large family, so she started to go through all her children, "Oh, let's see now, there's Billy, and there's Harry, and there's Martha, and there's..." And the census taker got a little impatient and annoyed with her, "Never mind their names, just give me the number!" Well, the mother got very indignant and said to the man, "They don't have numbers, they all have names!"

And that's the way it is with our relationship with the Lord.

You might be a number in the government census, but God knows your

name! You are a person to Him. He knows you personally by name. He knows everything about you.

When you acknowledge that God knows you and everything about you, three things will happen to you. First, you will fear God. Second, you will have confidence that God is with you. Third, you will have strong self-esteem as a masterpiece of God's creation.

You fear God

The Psalmist confesses that God knows everything and every part of his life- his thoughts, movement and word: *O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.* It is not only the Psalmist's confession but also the confession of all believers.

If we believe that God knows everything in our hearts and all our actions, what do we do? We cannot but fear God every moment.

Even if nobody watches us and nobody knows what we think and do, we are always conscious that God knows and watches us. That consciousness makes us fear God always.

This attitude blesses us tremendously. Why? Because fearing God is the foundation of wisdom. Proverbs 9:10 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...*" When we fear God, God gives us wisdom to overcome all destructive temptations of the devil and to live victorious lives.

The life of Joseph in the book of Genesis is a good example of this. When he was a young man, he was tempted by his master's wife. It was a temptation which was almost impossible for a young man to resist. But Joseph was able to overcome the temptation. How? He knew that God was watching him although nobody else watched him. He resisted the temptation with this confession: *How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?* (Genesis 39:9)

He feared God. And God gave him wisdom to overcome the temptation. So it was not his will power but God's wisdom which enabled him to overcome it.

God gives wisdom to all who fear him. God is pleased with their attitude. God makes them people of integrity. God gives them courage not to lie but to speak truth. God lifts up their names to be honored and respected. God will anoint their lives with the power of the Holy Spirit and make their lives fruitful. Galatians 6:7-8 says, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

Whenever you need wisdom believe that God knows you, everything in your heart, every movement you make and fear Him.

You have confidence that God is with you

By believing that God knows him and everything in his life, the Psalmist has confidence that God is always with him. He has confidence of God's guidance and provision. So he does not fear or worry about anything.

"If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (verses 8-10).

If you're discouraged this morning because you are nobody and you have nothing to be proud of, there's one thing you must remember. It is the fact that God is still with you and He has not finished His plan for your life yet.

Psalm 34:18 says, *"The Lord is near to those who are discouraged. He saves those who have lost all hope."*

Throughout Scripture, when God wanted something done, He "chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak

things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. I Corinthians 1:27-28

Some of the greatest heroes of Scripture were flawed but God was with them and finished His work in their lives.

Jacob was a liar.

Moses was a murderer.

Tamar deceived her father-in-law to have children

Rahab was a prostitute.

Ruth was a despised gentile widow.

King David had an affair.

Elijah suffered from depression.

Timothy had ulcers.

Thomas was a doubter.

Peter denied Jesus with the fear of death.

If God could do great things with men and women like these, what do you think He could do with you?

You have confidence in yourself

To the Psalmist “God knows me” means that God is the creator of his life. Also it means that his life has tremendous value and purpose: *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well* (verses 13-14).

Some of you may feel and think that you have nothing to be proud of. You may feel that your life does not have much value in any sense. You may say, *“I’m not smart enough. I’m not good looking enough. I’m not talented enough. I don’t have abilities or skills that are going to make a difference.”*

But you need to know that your value depends upon your creator.

Regardless of what you feel or think about yourself, God made your life tremendously valuable.

Science and biology have shed some light on the intricacies of the human body, which are amazing.

- There are 2.5 trillion red blood cells in your body at any moment. To maintain this number, your bone marrow produces about two and a half million new ones every second
- Your body produces 25 million new cells each second
- Your fingerprints were formed in your mother's womb at the age of three months
- Your nerve impulses travel at over 250 miles per hour
- Your eyes can distinguish up to one million color surfaces and take in more information than the largest telescope known to man
- Your scalp has about 100,000 hairs

Jesus says, in Luke 12:7, *“And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows.”* The word for 'valuable' in the Greek means to excel beyond others. Every human life is important to God above all other creatures. You are more important to God than billions of dollars, or all plants and animals in the world, or all the material treasures in the world.

Our value depends upon our creator. Our worth is increased in direct relation to how much we allow God to use us.

1 Samuel 17:7 says, *“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

We place big emphasis on how we look. God places no emphasis on how we look.

He says it doesn't matter because He does not judge a person by his appearance.

A little scrawny guy came in and applied to be a lumberjack. They said,

“You can’t be a lumberjack. You’re too small, too weak.” He said, “Give me an ax.” In 30 seconds he chopped down a huge tree. They said, “Where did you learn to chop like that?” The guy said, “The Sahara forest.” They said, “Don’t you mean the Sahara desert?” He said, “Well, that’s what they call it now.”

Here’s the point.

God created you exactly the way you are. It was part of his perfect plan for you.

He wanted you to look just like you look. He wanted you to have exactly the skills and abilities and talents you have. If you believe it, God gives you confidence in yourself and enables you to achieve your dream.

Ben Hooper, who has twice been elected governor of Tennessee, tells this story about his childhood:

“My mother wasn’t married [when I was born]. When I started to school my classmates had a name for me, and it wasn’t a very nice name. I used to go off by myself both at recess and during lunch time because of the taunts of my playmates, which cut me deeply. What was worse was going downtown on Saturday afternoon and feeling every eye burning a hole through you. They were all wondering who my real father was.

“When I was about 12, a new preacher came to our church. I would always go in late and slip out early. But one day the preacher said the benediction so fast I got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. I could feel every eye in church on me. Just about the time I got to the door, . . . I looked up and the preacher was looking right at me.

“‘Who are you, son? Whose boy are you?’

“I felt the old weight come upon me. It was like a big, black cloud. Even the preacher was putting me down, I thought.

“But as the preacher looked down at me, studying my face, he began a big smile of recognition. ‘Wait a minute,’ he said, ‘I know who you are. I see the family resemblance. You are a son of God!’

“With that, he slapped me across the back and said, ‘Boy, you’ve got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.’ “That,” Ben Hooper said, “was the

most important single sentence anyone ever said to me.”

With Christ’s help, Ben Hooper had overcome his sense of rejection and inadequacy and claimed his inheritance as a child of God.

God wants you to stop putting yourself down. When you say,
“I’m dumb. I’m ugly. I’m no good. I have no talent.”

God says, *“I created you just the way you are. I love you just as you are. I have put incomparable value into your life. I can use you according to that value. Just believe in my purpose in your life. And you will see the value of your life and will have the ability to do great things.”*