



**PRAISING THE PSALMS – PSALM 139 (VS. 1-2)**  
**GOD'S PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF MAN**  
Women's Discipleship Group  
Terri McFaddin  
Series #4 Lesson #1

**PSALM 139 NKJ**

***GOD'S PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF MAN***

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1. O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.
2. You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.
3. You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.
4. For *there is* not a word on my tongue,  
*But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
5. You have hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.
6. *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot *attain* it.
  
7. Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
8. If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;  
If I make my bed in hell, behold, 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 fall on me,"  
Even the night shall be light about me;
12. Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You,  
But the night shines as the day;  
The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.
  
13. For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.
14. I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And *that* my soul knows very well.

15. My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
*And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth*

16. Your eyes saw my substance  
being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they were written.  
The days were fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them.

17. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

18. If I should count them,  
they would be more in number than the sand.  
When I awake, I am still with You.

19. Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God!  
Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

20. For they speak against You wickedly;  
Your enemies take Your name in vain.

21. Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You?

22. I hate them with a perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.

23. Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
Try me and know my anxieties;

24. And see if there be any wicked way in me.  
And lead me in the way everlasting.

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**Scripture Focus:** *Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up. Psalm 139:1-2*

**Key Words: Search:** (Hebrew) – Chaqar: To examine thoroughly, so as to expose weaknesses.

**OPENING STATEMENT:**

The psalmist wrote in verse 1, “*Lord, you have searched me and known me.*” As David nears the end of his life, his writings indicate that he is keenly aware that the Lord knows his thoughts, feelings and decisions – even before he makes them. God creates a plan for our lives that is activated by the free-will decisions that we make. Even though he has created us for a purpose, carrying out God’s will for our lives is always a matter of choice. God watches to see what we will do with the opportunities and gifts that He has placed in us.

It is clear that there were times when David went against the plans that the Lord had for his life. When he sinned with Bathsheba the Lord spoke through Nathan the prophet to let David know his divine plan was violated: “*I delivered you from Saul and gave you your master’s house...And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? (2 Samuel 12:8).*”

David seemed to be caught off guard when the Lord uncovered his secret sin, but once his mischief was exposed, he quickly repented. From that day forward David understood that there was no place in heaven or hell to hide from the eyes of the Lord.

The more we know the Lord, the more we know ourselves. David wrote about being searched and known by the Lord. The following are my observations:

1. Each challenge that we face God is watching to see how we will respond to both adversity and opportunities. Will we become too wounded to continue? Will we become successful and filled with pride?
2. When God searches us, it is not for his discovery, but for our own self-examination. As the Lord searches us and shows us the truth about ourselves, he expects us to make the necessary adjustments to maintain a right relationship with Him.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

1. Study all of Psalm 139. Write down what God knows about David.

2. In Psalm 139, what has David come to know about himself?

**PERSONALIZATION:**

1. How has the Lord searched you and what has he revealed to you about your strengths and weaknesses?

2. Think of someone close to you, like a husband, sibling or your child. Write down good things that you know about them that they may think you're not aware of.

**APPLICATION:**

Go to someone you know very well and tell them something good about themselves that will inspire and encourage them.