

9:30am Service  
Psalm 139

This Psalm is about four major theology themes: Omniscience, omnipresence, Creator and Holy. They are terms that seem rather vague and big so rather than talk about them in cosmic terms, the Psalmist talks about a personal relationship with the eternal God.

The Psalm, then, has four parts:

*1-6 Yahweh knows (omniscience)*

*7-12 No hiding place(omnipresent)*

*13-18 God creator of me(creator)*

*19-24 Declaration of innocence (holy)*

Each part begins with an introductory couplet, then a development of that idea, followed by a sort of conclusion.

*1-6 Yahweh knows (omniscience)*

*1 Intro*

*2-4 Development*

*5-6 Conclusion*

‘I know you’ means something very different depending on the way you say it and therefore on the way you hear it. This where your understanding of God plays a most important part. All of us have secrets. All of us have things we regret we did or thought. And we cover them up

very carefully. But before God we can't hide. But that is not a reason to be afraid or despair. He loves us as we are, knowing us warts and all.

Romans 5:8 tells us

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Examples abound in the gospels. Jesus associated with the low life of Israel, on the cross he promised a murderer eternal life. He chose Saul while he was rampaging round Syria imprisoning his followers to be Paul the missionary to the Gentiles. The Psalm concludes that this idea that God knows everything goes over our heads but we are left amazed, enthralled and overwhelmed by his love.

Which lead to the second section

*7-12 No hiding place(omnipresent)*

*7 Intro*

*8-10 Development*

*11-12 Conclusion No hiding place even in the dark*

Again, you can read this two ways. If you are feeling guilty towards God, this is overwhelming. Like Adam & Eve in the garden of Eden who hid because of their shame, God knew they were there and called them out of their hiding place.

On the other hand, is this not encouraging, even though we are sinners God loves us and we can never be beyond his reach.

### *13-18 God creator of me*

#### *13 Intro*

#### *14-16Development*

#### *17-18Conclusion Awe and I am with you*

We are going to spend more time on this in the later service. Just to underline that before you get swallowed up in the mechanism and process of creation, have clearly in your mind that this world is God's creation in all its beauty and grandeur. More to the point you are God's creation! We are very good at concentrating on the bits of us that go wrong but we, each, are a very complex living being. You are unique because God created you just to be you.

### *19-24 Declaration of innocence*

#### *19 Intro*

#### *20-22Development*

This is a declaration that we are on God's side. The language may be violent but the intent is clear. We want nothing to do with sin and wickedness and violence. We are not here called to fight but that God fights for us. It is a reminder that sin is repugnant to God and should be to us. the conclusion is not to wage war against others

but to review the rest of the Psalm and ask God to:

### **23-24 Conclusion**

a) **God, know my heart** – <sup>23</sup>*Search me, O God, and know my heart;*

my thinking and my emotions, my reactions and soul. This is a response to God's omniscience in verses 1-6

b) **God, know my anxious thoughts** – *test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

we all have them, they are part of life and part of our spiritual exercises to share them with God. As 1Peter 5:7 says

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

c) **God, know my sin** – <sup>24</sup>*See if there is any offensive way in me, we want to discover what in our lives is offensive so that our love is purer and more holy. This is the opposite to the hiding away from God in verse 7-12 and the check on verses 19-24. It is reflected in 1John 1:5-10*

d) **God, know my way** – *and lead me in the way everlasting*

a reflection on the whole of the psalm that looks back, here we look forward not a finite life but

an eternal one. This is a reflection of verses  
13-18

Our response to all this? We know that the Lord is God, all-knowing, ever-present, creator and holy. We are reminded that he created us and chooses to love and care for us. so here we are in church together to worship the God who created us, knows everything about us, never leaves us and loves us, wanting us to be pure and holy in his sight. Psalm 100 expresses this in a well known form: