

Psalm 139:1-18 (NIV84)

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.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me

were written in your book before one of them came to be.

17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of

sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.

I have to confess, I am disappointed that the "safer at home" order issued by our governor has been renewed for the next six weeks. I fear for the people and the businesses of our state and our country that this policy will have a negative effect on us all. But then I read the above words of Psalm 139 and my heart is put at rest.

I don't know what the intentions are of our governmental officials and that is concerning to me. But I know what God's intentions are for you and me, and that really is all that matters. Our loving Lord will use these circumstances -- every one of them -- for our benefit and blessing.

We all could benefit from spending less time reading the latest news headlines and more time reading God's good news, which is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Spend time in the Word and be at peace in the gracious hand of God.

Resting peacefully with you in God's hand, Pastor Golm

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April 17

Our Father's Thoughts Toward Us

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand. Psalm 139:17-18

There is a deep beauty and sweet comfort in the truth that whatever comes into our lives as Christians had its first existence as a thought in the mind of God. Every success, every achievement, every sickbed, every sorrow, every changing scene of life through which we have passed and through which we still shall pass: all were but thoughts in the mind of our Father before they were permitted to find expression in our lives.

God's thoughts toward us who have become his children through faith in the Redeemer are always thoughts of love and mercy, of grace and tender kindness. As we trace the results of his thoughts toward us as they have found expression in our lives, we must exclaim with David: "How precious are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"

All that we are, all that we have and all that we shall enjoy in the heavenly mansions of our Father is the result of his gracious will toward us. Our puny reason may not grasp the mystery

that lies behind this thought, but every good and every blessing that has come into our lives existed first in the heart of God.

How rich and how "precious" these blessings have been, how constant, how undeserved, and how well-adapted to our needs. Surely, as we contemplate the unnumbered benefits which have come to us from our Father's love, we cannot but say in the words of the poet:

I praise and thank Thee, Lord, my God,  
For Thine abundant blessing  
Which heretofore Thou hast bestowed  
And I am still possessing.  
Inscribe this on my memory:  
The Lord hath done great things for me  
And graciously hath helped me.