

# Search Me

Psalm 139

Search Me    Introduction

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- Everyone thinks about God from time to time.

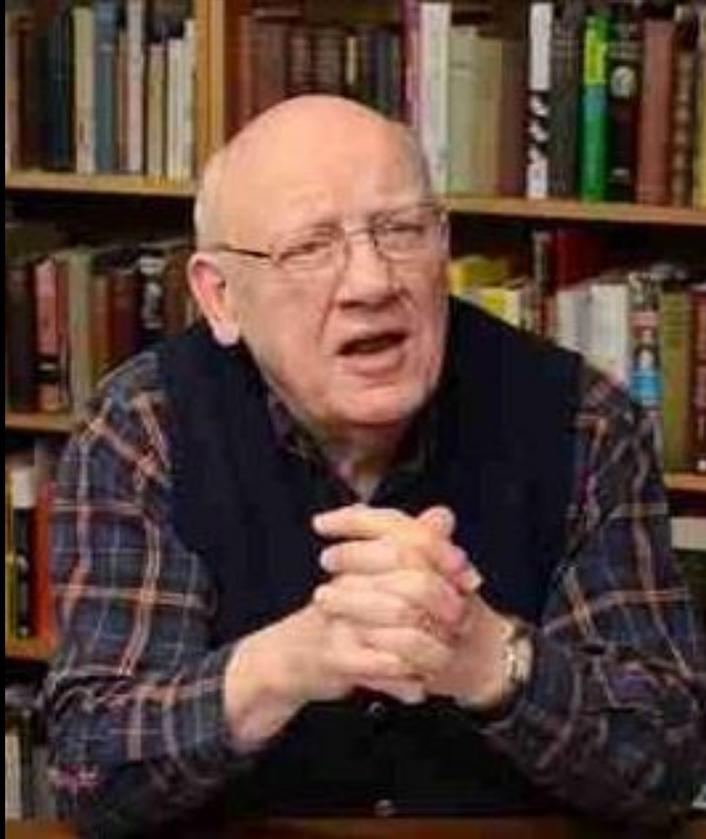
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- Everyone is a theologian
- Everyone thinks about God from time to time.
- These are some of the most important thoughts we think.
- We need to think rightly.

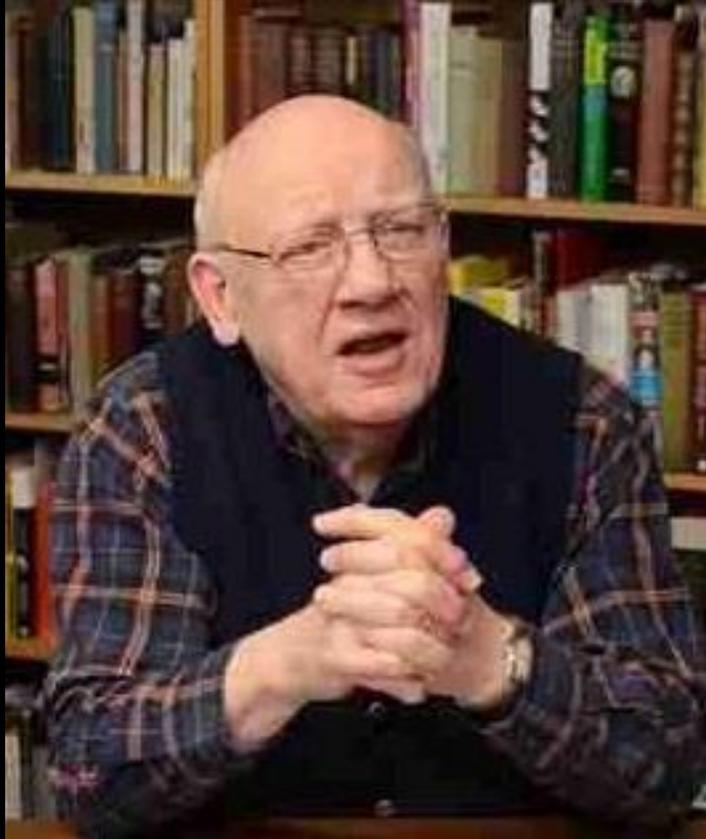
# Search Me Introduction



*What we think about God and our relationship to Him determines what we think about everything else.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

# Search Me Introduction



*Wrong ideas about God will ultimately lead to wrong ideas about who we are and what we should do, and this leads to a wrong life on a wrong path toward the wrong destiny.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

# Search Me    Introduction

- Conversely:
- Right ideas about God will ultimately lead to right ideas about who we are and what we should do, and this leads to a right life on a right path toward the right destiny.

# Search Me    Introduction

- I. God thoroughly knows us.    139:1-6
- II. God is constantly with us.    139:7-12
- III. God wonderfully made us.    139:13-18
- IV. He righteously judges.    139:19-24

*(adapted from Wiersbe)*

I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

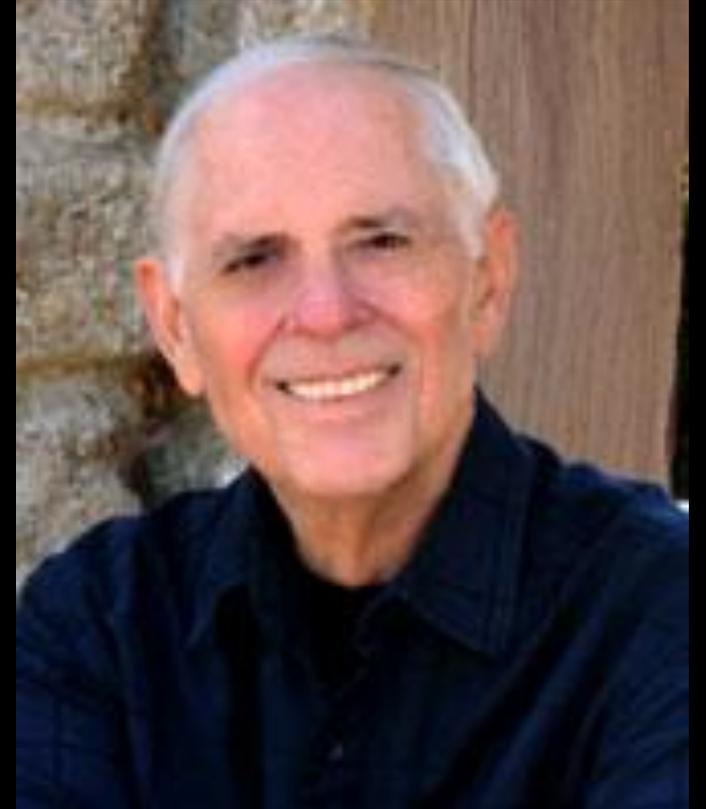
# I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

- God knows us better than we know ourselves.
- He knows everything we do, everything we think, and our words before we ever speak them.

I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

*God foreknows all human events yet without intrusion on the integrity of human freedom. Human free will has room to play in history, but it cannot overrule God's purposes.*

*– Thomas Oden, Methodist Theologian*



# I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

- 139:5 you hem me in encircle me or put limits upon me.
- God is constantly at work, often limiting the effects of evil and bringing his own plans to fruition.

I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

**Proverbs 19:21** (ESV) Many are the plans in the mind of a man,  
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

I. God thoroughly knows us. 139:1-6

139:6 A good way to end this section.

II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12

## II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12

- It's hard to tell if David sees this as a comfort or a threat.
- Maybe a bit of both.
- God not only follows us – when we arrive he is there already.

## II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12



*All of God is everywhere at once. God does not have one part here and another part there. God is present to but not part of creation. He is at every point in space but he is not spatial. He is at every point in space but he is not of any point in space.*

*– Norman Geisler*

## II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12

- God's constant presence could seem threatening if we were trying to somehow escape him.
- It can be a huge source of encouragement if we desire to do his will.

## II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12

**Exodus 3:11-12** (ESV) <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup>He said, “But I will be with you ...

**Matthew 28:20** (ESV) ... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

## II. God is constantly with us. 139:7-12

- What has God called you to do?
- Where has he asked you to go?
- He will be with you.

III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

- The fact that God personally made us overlaps with his intimate knowledge of us.
- Each one of us is an intricate unity designed by God.

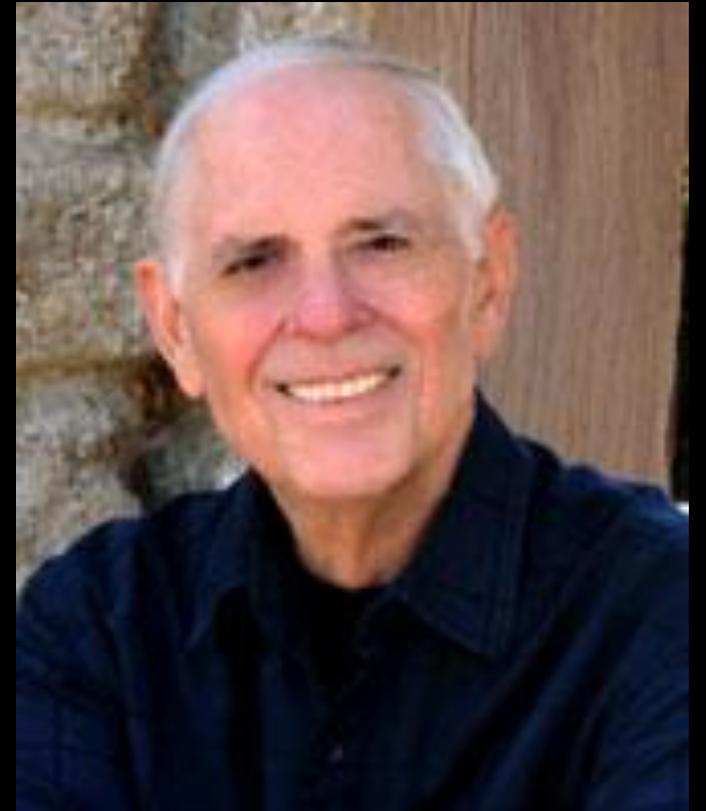
### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

- Human dignity and the sanctity of human life are closely related to God's role as the author of life.
- We are holy and have dignity because we are made by God in his image.

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

*The Genesis narratives, taken together, express much of the heart of the Jewish and Christian teaching on creation: that we are given life by one who is wise and free, who creates us for our good and whose goodness is displayed throughout the creation.*

*– Thomas Oden, Methodist Theologian*



### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

- Science is (mostly) trying to figure out what God has done.
- This should encourage those of us work in research, problem-solving or making things better.
- You can view your work as seeking to know his works, his ways and his wisdom for the benefit of others.

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

- All of what God has done is beautiful, valuable and good.
- This should encourage the artists.
- When you are working creatively, you can intentionally create that which glorifies him.

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

**Ephesians 2:10** (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18



*This is not to say that the creation is presently perfect. An essential component of the Christian doctrine of sin is the recognition that the world has departed from the trajectory upon which God placed it in the work of creation.*

*– Alister McGrath,  
professor of science and religion, Oxford*

### III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18



*It has become deflected from its intended course. It has fallen from the glory in which it was created. The world as we see it is not the world as it was intended to be. The existence of human sin, evil, and death is itself a token of the extent of the departure of the created order from its intended pattern.*

*– Alister McGrath,  
professor of science and religion, Oxford*

## III. God wonderfully made us. 139:13-18

### Three things to keep in mind:

1. Evil in the world is intentional. It is the result of deliberate rebellion against God.
2. Evil is presently limited. God keeps it from being as bad as it can be.
3. Evil is only temporary. We await a new heavens and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13)

IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

*God's righteousness means that God always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.*

*– Wayne Grudem, General Editor,  
ESV Study Bible*



## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

*As a result of God's righteousness, it is necessary that he treat people according to what they deserve. Thus, it is necessary that God punish sin, for it does not deserve reward; it is wrong and deserves punishment.*

*– Wayne Grudem, General Editor,  
ESV Study Bible*



IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

**Proverbs 8:13** (ESV) The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.  
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil  
and perverted speech I hate.

## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

- David's love for God caused him to hate evil.
- That much was good.
- Did he go to far in his hatred of the evildoers themselves?
- Perhaps.

IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

*Can it be right to hate people? In answering this question, there are two points we need to remember.*

*– Zamani Kafang,  
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

*The first is that the root of the psalmist's hatred is not selfish. He is not angry because these people have hurt him but because they hurt others and abuse God's name and glory.*

*– Zamani Kafang,  
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

*The second point we need to remember is that this psalm was written in OT times, and the psalmist did not yet understand that God loves even his enemies, for that love would only be fully revealed in Jesus Christ.*

*– Zamani Kafang,  
ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria*



## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

**Romans 5:8-10 (ESV)** <sup>8</sup> God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

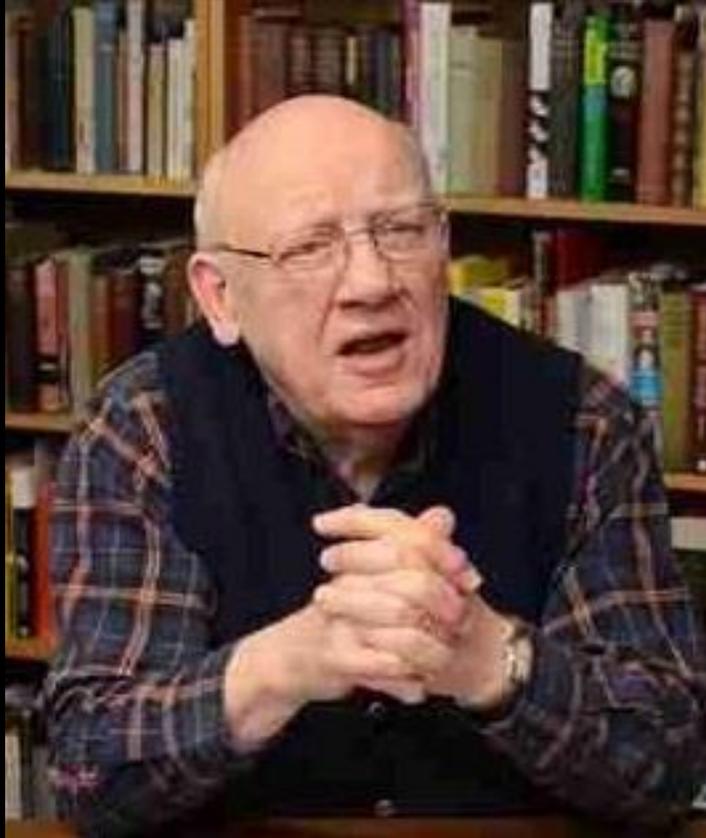
<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

## IV. He righteously judges. 139:19-24

- 139:23-24 This is where David's right thoughts about God eventually led him.
- This is what right thoughts about God will do for us.

Search Me    Conclusions

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*Wrong ideas about God will ultimately lead to wrong ideas about who we are and what we should do, and this leads to a wrong life on a wrong path toward the wrong destiny.*

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# Search Me    Conclusions

- But once again,
- Right ideas about God will ultimately lead to right ideas about who we are and what we should do, and this leads to a right life on a right path toward the right destiny.

# Search Me    Conclusions

1. God thoroughly knows us.

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# Search Me    Conclusions

1. God thoroughly knows us.
2. God is constantly with us.
3. God wonderfully made us.
4. He righteously judges.

# Search Me    Conclusions

- David's Conclusion should be ours.
- We should ask God's help in revealing to us those things in us and about us that most need to be changed.
- God is ultimately in charge.
- We should welcome his loving authority over us.