

QTC550. "You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 series part 16. 19 December 2024

"You Are A Wonder" Psalm 139 Series - Part 16 | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 550

Introduction

Today, we look at verses seventeen and eighteen of the Psalm.

Psalm 139.17-18

“How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. ”

Queens University conducted a study concluding that the average human has around 6200 thoughts daily. Multiply that by the population of the Earth, and that gives you about 46.9 trillion thoughts every day.

If God knows us inside out and therefore knows our thoughts, does that mean he has more thoughts than 46.9 trillion daily? Truthfully, I have no idea. We are dealing with metaphors and anthropomorphisms. However, David is driven to praise by reflecting on the immensity and incomprehensibility of God in contemplating how many thoughts he has.

God's thoughts are precious

I do not know how much a thought weighs. However, David concludes that they are more numerous and heavy than all the sand on Earth. Estimates suggest that the total weight of sand on Earth is about 7.5×10^{18} kilograms (or 7.5 quintillion kilograms). But, his thoughts are not only heavy but unique.

An alternative translation to the word 'weighty' is 'precious'. David views God's thoughts as more valuable than anything he can imagine. How foolish I am to worry about what I don't know or what bothers me when considering how much God knows. I sleep better at night when I contemplate the precious nature of God's thoughts. Perhaps that's what 'come to an end' means. It can be translated as 'when I awake'. Is this a morning realisation? Or is it hinting at the resurrection? What Montgomery Boice termed, “Womb to tomb, and beyond!”

Where is Jesus in this?

Since Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's nature, thoughts, and plans for humanity, we can trust that he embodies God's thoughts towards us.

Colossians 2.9

“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,”

How does this help us?

The vastness of God's thoughts and the intimacy of Jesus's knowledge of us as well as his constant presence, will increase our awe and reverence, foster intimacy with God, encourage us to trust in his plan for our lives, reassure us of his presence, and deepen our understanding of his word.

Question

Do you want to know how God thinks about you? Read the gospels, and you will find out.

Suggestions

Try using these prayers as starters for your own:

- "Lord, Your thoughts toward me are more than I can comprehend. I stand in awe of Your greatness and the depth of Your love for me. Thank You for always being with me, knowing me, and guiding me."
- "Thank You, Lord, for Your constant presence and the assurance that You are always with me. I commit myself to walking with You today, trusting Your wisdom and knowing that I am never alone."

Conclusion

Next time, we will move on to verses nineteen to twenty-two.

I am planning a spiritual experience day based on Psalm 139 in the spring of 2025. If you'd be interested, please email me at malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

Your brother, Malcolm

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical?

Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: malcolm@malcolmcox.org.

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God Grows His People", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

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