

November 4, 2017

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

¹ “O Lord, You have
searched me and
known me.”

Psalm 139:1 (NASB)

God is Omniscient

Everyone desires to be known, to have people in their lives who know their history and personality enough to "get" them; who know them well enough to be able to connect with them both emotionally and spiritually.

But being known is a two-edged sword. Most of us want to be known, but not "known-known," if you get my drift. We want people to know enough about us to know who we are, but not so much that they *really* know who we are, perhaps better than we do.

We long to be known, but we are terrified of being too known. But as we learn in Psalm 139:1-6, there is someone who knows us in just that way, which is both thrilling and terrifying.

In those verses I am told that God **searches** me. When I lost my cellphone recently, I looked high and low to find it. I went through every drawer, looked under every pile of papers, and dug through every cushion. Eventually I found it under the passenger's seat of my wife's car. God searches me just as thoroughly, and in the process, He **sees** where I have been. God also sees where I am right now. In verse two, I am told that He knows all that I say and do. God, we are told, **studies** us. Before I was married, I worked hard to discover what Ellen liked and disliked; what delighted her and what disgusted her. God studies me in the same way. God **sees** where I will be. He not only knows where I've been and where I am. He also knows where I will be, because He knows my future. God **surrounds** me. Just as I can never go where I am not; there is no escaping God. He is always with me, so He always knows what I am up to. I may not always know why I do what I do, but God knows.

The theological word for this level of knowledge is "omniscience"—the capacity to know everything that there is to know about, well, everything. And, for that matter, everybody. Which is why, God knows me better than I do.

I would suggest to you that being known in that way is both our greatest desire and our greatest fear. It is our greatest desire because we are hard-wired to want to be known, to be seen. It is our greatest fear because, due to the fall, we are hard-wired to not want to be known or seen for who we really are, just as Adam feared that after the fall in the garden, covering himself with fig leaves.

That is why, as I said before, being known is both thrilling and terrifying. And I suppose if it is some random person who knows me in that way, who knows me better than I do, it would indeed be terrifying because they would have the power to shame me, to shun me, to shred me. But it is not some random person who knows me in that way. It is God, and God knows me, but God is faithful, loving me and showing me mercy and grace even though He knows me better than I do.

That gives me the freedom to speak the truth to God through confession, being honest about my struggles with sin and the difficulties I am facing in life, comforted by the fact that He already knows. And it frees me to seek the truth by seeking the Kingdom of God, trusting that all these things will be added unto me. In doing so I (and you) are given the opportunity to know as we are known, first as through a glass darkly, but one day face to face.

*Pray for our church plant
in Clifton Park, NY.*

Pray With Us

Craig Mosher: His mom Diane had a car accident and received some injuries, she is home recovering. Pray that she heals completely. She is doing the memorial service for their great aunt Joyce on Sunday, pray that Diane has the strength and with God's help all goes well.

Melinda Goodermote: Her friend Cindy has a PET scan today pray for good results. On Tuesday she sees her physician for the results and then on to Boston Wednesday for decision regarding her treatments. Melinda is so grateful for Cindy's witness during all the challenges she has met, that her faith is still strong.

Kevin Bonesteel: His friend's son Sam was in the ER with croup, Sam is battling leukemia. Pray for his recovery and for his family. He was taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons.

Frank Mace: Remember to honor our Veteran's for their service and dedication to our country.

Marie Hoffman: Her co-worker's son was sentenced to two years in prison. Pray that he can overcome his addiction with God's help.

Stacey Sicko: Her nephews Josh and Matthew hit a deer. Both were unhurt and there was minor damage to the truck. She is most thankful for God's protection.

Braydon Griswold: He would like prayer that his rash (eczema) goes away.

Chantel Bink: Pray for her school, Bennington Elementary, for strength and less stress for students and teachers. Pray that they can cope and overcome their fatigue/burnout.

Jen Bonesteel: Her sister got a job at a church in Boston. The family is moving soon. Pray for a smooth transition, for their house here to sell, and for her brother-in-law- Rich to find a job in that area.

Teresa Zema: Thankful for the beautiful weather we have recently enjoyed.

Paula Dibble: Thankful for this church family for the love and care they share. Continue to pray for her son James and his family situation. Pray for the Newell family as they mourn the loss of Nicholas.

Berlin Youth Fellowship,

*Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm
(grades K-12)*

Weekly Events

Women's Bible Study, Tuesday, November 7, 7 pm in the church library and/or Wednesday, November 8, 10 am in the church library.

Bennington YF, Wednesday, November 8, 6 pm at the Bennington Rec Center.

Men's Bible Study, Thursday, November 9, 7 pm in the church library.

Upcoming Events

Operation Christmas Child Pack & Pray, Friday, November 10, 7 pm.

Fellowship Meal, Saturday, November 11, following Sabbath School.

Chocolate Fest, Saturday, November 18, 6:30-7:00 pm.

Community Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday, November 22, 7 pm at the United Methodist Church in Berlin.