

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference

Message #6

A Knowledge With No End: The Omniscience of God Dr. Sinclair Ferguson

In this session, Sinclair Ferguson will explain the meaning of God's omniscience, demonstrating how it is taught throughout the Scriptures. We are reminded of how a proper understanding of this attribute of our great God is a true comfort to believers.

The Principle text for this message is Psalm 139.

What is it about the subject of the omniscience of God that makes it a most complex subject to think about and teach?

What is the consequence or only right response to the consideration of these truths? Hint: Ecclesiastes 12:10-12

I. THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- a. The extent of God's knowledge is utterly amazing
- b. We are fully known... Our thoughts are fully known... our words.
- c. True for himself and amazingly for all men in all times and places

II. THE IMMENSITY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- a. Vs. 11 Even the darkness is not night to you... darkness as day.
- b. Words and images are used to try communicate reality
- c. God's ways and knowledge not dependent upon sensory perception.
- d. Rather all things depend upon his knowledge.
- e. Compared to development of child in the womb... and yet this is illustrative of extent and breadth of knowledge of God.

III. THE INCOMPARABILITY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- a. God knows things in a way we as creatures cannot.
- b. His knowledge is independent of the world.
- c. Some dispute the possibility of the extent of God's knowledge... want to make limited and conditional.
- d. Speak of middle knowledge (media Scientia). Diminishes what spoken here and other places. Isaiah 40 for instance

IV. THE PRACTICALITY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- a. Mighty source of believer's security and comfort.
- b. Answers our deep insecurities. Your heavenly Father knows your needs
- c. Unmasks the nature of man's iniquity. Long to know and be known.
- d. Such knowledge too wonderful for us.
- e. Jesus speaks with this kind of knowledge. Matthew 7:22 "not know you