

God Knows

O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.” (Psalm 139:1-4)

God’s omniscience may be taken as a philosophical or theological fact until we understand His comprehensive knowledge includes us. More precisely He knows me...fully and perfectly. That takes the doctrine of Omniscience off the shelf of high theology and makes it a shocking living personal reality. The psalmist employs the imagery of God’s searching us out as if He had ransacked me and thoroughly searched out everything about me until there was nothing else to be known.

But it is not that God did not always know me, was once ignorant about me and had to learn by undertaking a special fact-finding operation . Rather it *as if* He had meticulously inspected and tried everything about me until He had found out everything. He has finished that job and His “intelligence” is complete.

We cannot appreciate the wonder of that until we realize that we cannot find out all there is to know about the least of anything! Even in our most learned, gifted, and experience field we are almost like brute beasts for our ignorance. We are constantly being buffaloes, stumped, and falling into error because of lack of information. God knows everything about every body and every thing!

He knows my action and my inaction. If I am passive, He knows why, even if I do not. If I am reticent, refusing to act, He knows exactly why. If I cannot do something, He knows the cause.

If my passions rise, He knows, and knows why. He knows where my buttons are, and how to push them. He knows the exact cause of excitement, anger, dismay, pride, ambition, revenge, love, hate, unforgiveness, sorrow, joy, longing and desire. It is vain for me to think I can put something past God, con Him into believing something less than the absolute truth.

He “winnows” threshes out my goings and my restings. He knows all about every course I choose before choose it. He knows every step I take, and exactly why I take it even I myself do not know. He is fully acquainted with all my ways, every turn I take, and why I take it; never surprised or shocked at anything, even though I may be.

God knows everything going on with me, in my mind, spirit and body whether waking or sleeping, conscious or unconscious. Nothing happens while we sleep without His knowledge and oversight. He knows every word we say before we say it, before it is formed by the tongue. He knows the thoughts and passions that provoke it. He knows it even if it is never uttered. He knows it altogether, better than we should ever know it even after we say it. If He should interpret it to us we should be amazed, shocked, and perhaps disbelieving.

How wonderful this is that God should know us like this. Knowledge that would cause us to blush with shame if others knew, *He* knows. And wonder of wonders...He still loves us!

- C. M.