

Boxed In

“You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.” (Psalm 139:5-6).

The Psalmist has been marveling over God’s knowledge of him; that God knows him better than he knows himself, knows his every thought, emotion, will, decision and action before he himself knows it. He knows our words before they are ever formed by the tongue or uttered in the vocal cords.

He moves from these wonders now to consider God’s absolute sovereignty and man’s freedom. There can be no breach between God’s omniscience and His sovereignty. He cannot be worthy of our worship if He is ignorant of something, or incompetent to order all things aright. Therefore, It is true that He ordains my works, my walk, my path, and my times.

“Hedged me behind”. Where I have been and what I have done with my life is now **fixed!** It is all in His Hand to do with whatever He pleases according to His righteous judgment or His longsuffering mercies. Whether it be good or evil, God may lay it up for certain judgment, or He may graciously put it out of His sight forever. He has given His Son as a propitiation for our sins so that He may be gracious to whomsoever He will. Therefore He can righteously promise, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I Jn. 1:9).

He has also boxed us in so far as our future is concerned. He holds us in His Hand. All my thoughts, feelings, actions and works, which are as yet before me, are determined by His sovereign Hand. What can I do?

Yet I am no robot. I am entirely free in all my thoughts and actions, immediately responsible to the Almighty for them all!

If we have expected the Psalmist to unravel this mystery for us we shall be very disappointed. What does he say? He does not give us some sort of humanly devised compromise, some synergistic explanation that combines God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility. No, he gives us the one godly answer that honors God and humbles man, one that marks those who are content to live as creatures under God gracious Hand: This is unsearchable! It is too high for me. I cannot attain unto it. It is enough that it is true, and it is all in God’s wise and powerful control. We cannot rise to it, cannot grasp it. We may only **believe it!** Faith! What a wonderful means of uniting finite man to an infinite God!

- C. M.