Who am I, Lord?
Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

    A. Text: Psalm 139.

    B. We all ask the question, who am I?

    C. This psalm is a study of what a man is in relationship to God.

II. How well does God know me?

    A. God searches a person.

        1. God digs into each person.

        2. God knows a person's thoughts and understands them.

        3. God knows a person's habits.

        4. God understands a person's language.

    B. God is active in a person's past, present and future.

    C. The quality of God's knowledge is wonderful and overwhelming.

    D. God knows a person better than he knows himself.

    E. It takes God's self-revelation for us to understand how important we are to Him.

III. How near is God to me?

    A. God is everywhere.

    B. We may not want God to be everywhere, but this should bring us comfort.

    C. No darkness can hide us from His presence.

IV. How we know this to be true.

    A. We know this by the design of our own bodies—we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

    B. We are intricately wrought.

    C. There is evidence of determination in circumstances.

V. The revelation of God is abundant.

A. We would never understand ourselves outside of revelation.

B. We need information outside of design and determination.

VI. The psalmist interjects bloody thoughts.

A. Not all of the Psalms express truth because they are personal expressions of the authors.

B. One of the refreshing things about the Psalms is the honesty that they reflect.

C. The New Testament and the Old Testament are not contradictory—this author does not understand the importance of loving one's neighbor.

VII. We should ask God to teach us and lead us.

Application questions:

1. How does God's deep knowledge and closeness to you make you feel? How should it make you feel?
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2. The psalmist was impressed by arguments from design and determination. Which argument do you find most convincing about God? Explain.
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3. In what circumstances would you refer to this Psalm to bring comfort to another? Explain.
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