

Session 1

January 21, 2018

I AM WONDERFULLY MADE

Psalm 139:1-6; 13-18

I had the blessing of knowing Emalee-Rose for most of her brief life. She was born with multiple health problems, expected to live for less than six months, and considered by many to be too much of a burden for her family. But she defied the odds, brought light and life to her family and our church, and made a mockery of “conventional wisdom.” Her funeral service (half way through her ninth year of life) brought me to this Psalm which serves as a reminder that our Creator is both non-conventional and competent. In fact, He knows exactly what He is doing. His intimate activity in our lives is demonstrated by three key characteristics.

His intimate knowledge (vv. 1-4). The extent of God’s knowledge has no bounds. We are well acquainted with God’s attribute of *omniscience*; that He is *all-knowing*. But we tend to apply that to the big things of our universe. While His omniscience certainly points to the greatness of God, it should also point us to the intimacy of God. He knows everything about our *cosmos*; but He knows everything about *us*. That He has searched us and known us doesn’t reflect His lack of knowledge and needing to find something out, but just the opposite. He has examined us inside and out. He doesn’t have to guess; He knows! Notice the kinds of intimate things God knows: our activities (v. 2); our thoughts (v. 2); our direction (v. 3); our pathways (v. 3); even the words we are about to speak (v. 4). While this might strike fear in us (after all, Jesus said in Luke 8:17, “For nothing is concealed that won’t be revealed, and nothing hidden that won’t be made known and come to light”), it should also serve as a great comfort. The God who made the universe, also made us. He knows us.

His intimate presence (v. 5). The omniscience of God is now complimented with God’s omni-presence. Not only is God *all-knowing*, but He is *everywhere*. And again, the application is very personal. God is indeed everywhere...but God is also *here*. Both phrases of verse 5 should be taken together. The word for *encircled* means to “surround,” like an army might surround a city. To place one’s hand on is to cover up, or seal off. The picture is clear: like an army, God has surrounded us with His powerful presence. But with a gentle hand, He has covered us; not to keep us in (although He does indeed secure us; see John 10: 28-29), but rather to protect us. That God is both so great and so intimate at the same time caused David to confess, “This is too much for me...I just can’t understand it!” (v. 6)

His intimate plan (vv. 13-18). This poetic description of God’s most wonderful creation—a human being—draws equal attention to the specialness of the creation and the praiseworthiness of the Creator. Nothing here is by accident. Nothing is left to chance. The plan began in the womb. David speaks of the active work of God in creating new life. The same hard finger of God that inscribed Moses’ tablets of stone gently “knits” the parts of the body together; parts that David describes as “remarkable” and “wonderful.” How can anyone deny that life begins at conception? Beyond His plan in creating the body, God purposed a roadmap of life to go with it; a roadmap drawn in advance and covering every day of our lives! So marvelous and lofty are His works that David is consumed by the very thought of them. When he awakens, the wonder of it all remains.

In the minds of many, little Emalee-Rose was somehow defective. But God knit her together according to His perfect plan. Nothing was accidental; nothing was left to chance. Like every human ever conceived, God knew exactly what He was doing. And He does ALL things well.