In Psalm 139, David considers the nature of God – primarily three attributes:

- 1. God’s omniscience (all-knowingness)
- 2. God’s omnipresence (all present)
- 3. God’s omnipotence (all powerful)
  - And the conclusion is God is really what he longed for.

Q: What are you longing for?

- From Psalms 139, I want to talk about two issues on the subject of longing – First, I want to show that the real longings of each of us, can only be found in God.
  - All other relationships are but a shadow of fulfillment.
- Then in the second part of this study of Ps. 139, I want to talk about HOW TO KEEP THE LONGING FOR GOD SATISFIED:

**WHAT WE ALL LONG FOR**

1. Longing: **Intimacy**
   - Definition: To be known and **understood**
     - To be known and understood – what a treasure!
     - In every relationship, there’s what’s called “The Test-Trust Equation”
       - We put friends through a series of tests.
       - We decide if we are safe with them….if we can fully trust them.
       - If they pass the test, we allow them to really know us.
       - The problem is – we sin, and intimacy and trust is damaged.
       - But there is one relationship that can never be damaged – Our relationship with God.
Found in God - Psalm 139:1–6 (NIV84) — 1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out [public life] and my lying down [Private life] ; you are familiar [“intimately familiar”] with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. 5 You hem [“enclose”, Literally – “You cup your hand over me”. speaks of protection and comfort] me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

➢ If you are longing for intimacy, your search begins and ends with God.

2. Longing: Security

- Definition: A confident feeling of protection and safety
- The fallacy of finding security in ourselves:
  - Unpredictability of events beyond our control (explain)

Found in God - Psalm 139:7–12 (NIV84) — 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? [Even if I try run away from God, He is there – This brings me security.] 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths [“Sheol”, the underworld] [Note – From the heights to the depths God is there], you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide [This implies hiding from God. However, this word can also be translated “fall” or “crush” – If I say, “Surely the darkness will fall upon and crush me”] me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

➢ If you are longing for security, your search begins and ends with God.

3. Longing: Purpose

- Definition: Understanding one’s reason for existence

Found in God - Psalm 139:13–18 (NIV84) — 13 For you created my inmost being [The heart, mind and spirit – our inner core] ; you knit [Literally – embroidered”–One commentator wrote that this might imply David’s veins and arteries.] me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame [skeletal frame] was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,[This is a way to describe his mother’s womb…as a place unseen.] 16 your eyes saw my unformed body [This is a way to describe the embryo]. All the days ordained for me were written in your book [How long David would live, and perhaps even the events of each day of his life] before one of them came to be. 17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! 18 Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.

➢ If you are longing for purpose, your search begins and ends with God.

◆ .... How to keep the longing for God satisfied:

1. Reject anything in opposition to God (Vs. 19-22)
Psalm 139:19–22 (NIV84) — 19 If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! 20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. 21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? 22 I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies.

- “Hated” – in the sense of rejection (As in Malachi 1:2-3, “Jacob I loved, Esau I hated.”)
- A warning – rejection of anything in opposition to God is not just “out there”.
  - What about my own inner opposition?
    - Fear of unpredictability
    - Attempting to control people and events (rather than allowing God to do this)
    - Bitterness toward those who’ve hurt me
      - I’ve decided, I’ve got my hands full dealing with my own oppositions to God to be consumed with other people’s opposition to God.

2. Desire God’s evaluation of my innermost thoughts and motives (Vs. 23-24a)

Psalm 139:23–24 (NIV84) — 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test [examine] me and know [wisdom and skill of judgment] my anxious thoughts [Interesting that our anxiety is to be evaluated by God --- Anxiety = Lack of faith in God]. 24 See if there is any offensive [Hebrew root word – idol that is worshipped – speaks of not having God in His rightful supreme place] way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- This is when change really begins – allowing God to probe our hearts.
  - Self-diagnosis is flawed because we humans are experts in making excuses for ourselves.

3. Unconditionally follow God’s leading (V. 24b)

Psalm 139:24 (NIV84) — 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- To long for God is to come under His leadership.
  - If you are longing for intimacy, security, and purpose, your search begins and ends with God.

This week

Dedicate some quiet time to evaluating the tone of your life. Ask yourself: Have I found intimacy, security and purpose in God?

If not, consider the three ways to keep the longing alive. Is there need to address any of the three actions?

The A B C's of Salvation

A. Accept you are a sinner.
   “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

B. Believe Jesus died for your sins.
   “If you confess with your mouth, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”
C. Confess your sins.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

For further study - A more detailed copy of this sermon, the “Expedition A.B.F.” notes, and maps/charts/photos can be found at our Chapel website link: www.thebibleexpedition.wordpress.com

(Posted by 4 P.M. today)

THIS WEEK’S STUDY: Luke 18:9-14)