

THE HEART OF GOD'S FAITHFUL

PSALM 139: 19-24

Introduction:

I have struggled with this last section of the Psalm, as have other students of the Psalm. Some have even concluded that someone must have added it to the original Psalm since it makes such an abrupt change in emphasis. It moves us from worshipful contemplation of the greatness of our Creator-God to some stranger personal petitions.

I think I have been given a breakthrough in my attempt to understand and apply this part of the Psalm to us. I believe that David moves from the awe of worship to a consideration of his own heart, and how his heart responds to God. He gives us some insight into the heart of a faithful man, the heart of a person who is appropriately given to the worship of God.

There are two things that will be found in such a heart.

I. THE FAITHFUL HAVE A LOYAL HEART.

1. The supplication of a loyal heart.

Psalm 139:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men.

2. The separation of a loyal heart.

Psalm 139:19-22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Oh, that You would slay the wicked, O God! Depart from me, therefore, you bloodthirsty men. ²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly; Your enemies take *Your name* in vain. ²¹ Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

3. The hatred of the a loyal heart.

Psalm 139:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²² I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

II. THE FAITHFUL HAVE A VULNERABLE HEART.

1. The petition of a vulnerable heart.

Psalm 139:23 (NKJV)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

We may each one desire such searching; for it would be a horrible calamity to us for sin to remain in our hearts unknown and undiscovered.

CHS, 291

Five great verbs gather up the heartfelt prayer: "examine "me, "Know" me, "test" me, "see" me, and "lead" me.

Leslie, 313

2. The possibility of a vulnerable heart.

Psalm 139:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

3. The path for a vulnerable heart.

Psalm 139:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

The way to eternal life, or the ancient way.