## **Eleutheros Newsletter**

September 2021

## News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

<u>The Ramifications of Our Salvation</u> explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

<u>Bible Translations: A Closer Look</u> explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

<u>Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14</u> deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

<u>A Portrait of Jesus</u> looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

<u>The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ</u> presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

<u>19<sup>th</sup> Century Influences on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity</u> gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: <a href="www.eleutherosbooks.com">www.eleutherosbooks.com</a>

Is there anything more important to you than your eternal salvation?

Here is your invitation to understand salvation.

You Can Learn At Your Own Pace and Choose The Course of Study

(CURRENTLY OFFERING)

**The Ramifications of Our Salvation 101** 

**The Ramifications of Our Salvation 102** 

## Thoughts from the Psalms

Psalm 139 lists a number of amazing things about God.

<u>Verses 1-4</u> emphasize His *omniscience* (His awareness and full knowledge of ALL things). David writes *O Lord, Thou has searched me, and known me* (verse 1), indicating that God is aware of all that is happening in his *personal* life. In verses 2-4 he writes about the *details* of God's knowledge: *Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising* (verse 2); *Thou compassest my path and my lying down* (verse 3); *For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether* (verse 4).

Many people, believers and unbelievers, live as though God is "surprised" by the events that take place in individual lives or in human events. Surely, based on these verses, according to the Word of God, He know ALL things!

This means that men often misunderstand other men, or sometimes feel they can "fool" God, but He knows *everything!* To a believer who is in right relation with God, this fact can be a great comfort (see <u>I John 1:7</u>). This amazing truth should have a sanctifying effect in the lives of believers who are not walking closely with God (see <u>I John 1:8-10</u>).

<u>Verses 5-6</u> emphasize God's *protection* for His people. Thou hast beset me behind and before (verse 5); David is greatly comforted by God's protecting hand and declares, Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

<u>Verses 7-9</u> emphasize God's *omnipresence* (the fact that He is always everywhere). David asks, *Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from Thy presence* (verse 7). God gives him the answer in verses 8 and 9: *If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make My bed in hell, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea....* 

It is often said, obviously incorrectly, that God does not reside in hell and that unbelievers will never see or be anywhere near God. Verse 8 makes that idea unbiblical!

The point is this: God is everywhere! Of course, it is very clear that hell is an awful place, and we should ask God to help us to lead others to Christ so they can avoid such an awful fate! We should recognize that God will bless true believers eternally in heaven, and He will also be the gatekeeper for unbelievers in hell.

<u>Verses 10-12</u> speak of the *praiseworthiness* of God. Notice in these verses that God's goodness provides "leading" (verse 10), "cover" (verse 11), and light in dark places (verses 11 and 12).

<u>Verses 13-16</u> speak of God's life-giving creativity. Even before birth *Thou hast covered me in my mother's womb* (verse 13). In verse 14 David recognizes how detailed human life really is (*for I am fearfully and wonderfully made*). This should be understood as a major argument against the idea that man has evolved as a result of some "process" not ordained by God! David expresses amazement at life itself in verses 15-16: *My substance* 

was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance....

We would do well to recognize that God is the author both of physical life and spiritual life (see John 1:4)!

<u>Verses 17-18</u> simply speaks about the *awesomeness* of God. David is overwhelmed as he writes, *How precious are Thy thoughts unto Me, O God* (verse 17); and *If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand* (verse 18).

So many today want to "make God a lot less than Who He really is!

<u>Verses 19-24</u> emphasize God's holiness. Surely Thou wilt slay the wicked (verse 19); For they speak against Thee wickedly (verse 20); Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate Thee (verse 21); I hate them with perfect hatred I count them mine enemies (verse 22)

In <u>verses 23-24</u> David wants to live righteously, knowing that God is eternally and omnisciently holy: Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This great Psalm should be pondered often! It will encourage believers to understand better just how amazing God really is!

We will consider another Psalm in next month's newsletter.