

The Miracle of Human Life

Psalm 139:13-18

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Introduction: Consider with me this morning the amazing understanding of the Psalmist David. This Psalm was written over 3,000 years ago, long before the sciences of embryology & physiology were researched. Yet David describes in vivid & delicate detail the stages of pre-natal development of a child in his mother's womb. The verses of our text (:13-18) remind us once again that the design & the begetting of a human life is the work of God. Scroggie said, "The Psalmist is both scientist & theologian; he sees together, in their relation to one another, the material & spiritual facts." How do we explain this accuracy of description & awareness of development by David? Such knowledge is inexplicable apart from Divine inspiration. II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21, & David's own words found in II Samuel 23:2, "*The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, & His word was in my tongue*" give us the answer to such insight shown by David in this Psalm.

I. **Inspiration's insight** (:13, 15-16)

A.. Man's **formation** (:13) > emphasis upon God's **ownership**.

1. **Identification** of the terms:

- a. "*Possessed*" – acquired by creation; made or formed.
- b. "*Reins*" - literally, "kidneys" - seat of the emotions; man's desires & longings; his inner nature or personality.
- c. "*Covered*" - to interweave; to weave; to knit together (literally - "Thou has woven me in my mother's womb").

2. **Implications** from the text:

- a. "The least we can draw out of this text is that the formation of the life of a person in the womb is the work of God, & it is not merely a mechanical process but a work on the analogy of weaving or knitting. The life of the unborn is the knitting of God, & what He is knitting is a human being in His own image, unlike any other creature in the universe" (Piper). - See Job 31:13-15.
- b. "...God had put his (David's) parts together as one who weaves cloth, or who makes a basket. The weaving of the bones, tissue, & organs of the fetal unborn is under the control & guardianship of God" (Hindson).

B. Man's **fabrication** (:15) > emphasis upon God's **craftsmanship**.

1. The body's **frame**:

- a. "*Substance*" - bones or skeleton.
- b. The substantial part of man's being.

2. The body's **framing**:

- a. "*Made*" & "*curiously (skillfully) wrought*" are in parallel construction.
- b. "*In secret*" & "*lowest parts of the earth*" > poetic reference to the womb.

Illustration: An artist's painting, kept covered until finished, then revealed to the public.

"'Embroidered with great skill,' is an accurate poetical description of the creation of veins, sinews, muscles, nerves, etc. What tapestry can equal the human fabric?" (Spurgeon).

Application: God's intimate knowledge of us began even before conception & continues throughout our lives. - See Jeremiah 1:4-5.

C. Man's **foreordination** (:16) > emphasis upon God's **guardianship**.

1. A "**genetic**" blueprint:

- a. "*Substance*" (different word than in :15) - here, a wrapped & unformed mass; refers to the undeveloped members of the embryo.
- b. "While as yet the vessel was upon the wheel the Potter saw it all. The Lord knows not only our shape, but our substance: this is substantial knowledge indeed" (Spurg.).

2. A "**prophetic**" blueprint:
 - a. "...And in thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them" (NASB).
 - b. Even before David was fully formed, God had sovereignly ordained the days of his life. It is as if God had recorded in a "sketch-book" all about his members & movements. (cf. Ephesians 2:10).

II. Exaltation's outburst (:14)

- A. David's song of praise > "*I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully & wonderfully made...*"
 1. David's natural response to the contemplation of his creation by God is one of praise & adoration, marveling at the creative genius & greatness of His Creator. - "*fearfully*" > "...this expression of God's involvement with people is cause for gratitude & worship. Appreciation & respect for the Lord's will in creation - the unborn child - is thus our proper response to pregnancy" (Care Net).
 2. "The wonderfulness of the human body is so great that those who study the cells of the brain, the articulation of the limbs, or the smooth functioning of the body organs stand in awe at how wonderful this creation of God really is" (Hindson).
Illustration: Consider the heart, other muscles, eye, ear, & the whole body.
- B. David's statement of perception > "*...and that my soul knoweth right well.*"
 1. "He was no agnostic - he knew; he was no doubter - his soul knew; he was no dupe - his soul knew right well. Those know indeed & of a truth who first know the Lord, & then know all things in Him" (Spurgeon).
 2. If David knew with such certainty the marvelous creative power of God 3,000 years ago, how much more should we know & marvel today?

Summary: "In honesty, every student of the human anatomy must say to God, marvellous are Thy works" (Hindson).

Conclusion: There is coming a day when all the saints in heaven will proclaim: "*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory & honour & power: for Thou hast created all things, & for Thy pleasure they are & were created*" (Rev. 4:11). We need not wait until we get to heaven to offer such praise to God. Commenting on Ps. 139:14, Joseph Caryl wrote, "The frame of the body (much more the frame of the soul, most of all the frame of the new creature in the soul) is God's work, & it is a wonderful work of God... David took no notice of father or mother, but ascribed the whole efficiency of himself to God... Though we are begotten & born of our earthly parents, yet God is the chief parent & the only fashioner of us all." Ps. 100:3 reminds us, "*Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, & not we ourselves; we are His people, & the sheep of His pasture.*" We see in Psalm 139 the omniscience of God (His complete perspective), the omnipresence of God (His comforting presence) & the omnipotence of God (His creative power). The more we read & learn of our infinite God, the more we can affirm with David, "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it*" (:6). The God Who created you desires to commune with you. Such a personal relationship is possible only through His Son, Jesus Christ. Do you have such a relationship with God the Father? If not, why not come to Him in faith believing today? Hebrews 11:6 declares: "*But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, & that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*" If you are saved, may your response to this part of the Psalm be that of David, "*I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully & wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; & that my soul knoweth right well.*"