

## NAKED BEFORE GOD

### Hebrews 4:12-13:

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight; but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. We Have Tended to Emphasize verse 12 and Overlook verse 13.

##### 1. ΤΕΤΡΑΧΗΛΙΟΜΕΝΑ open.

Τετραχηλιομένα  
a. Used to describe skinning of animals.

b. Used among wrestlers of a hold to turn an opponent's head to expose face and neck.

c. Used as a knife under the chin to force the criminal to face his accusers.

d. Used here to show that all men will stand before God with heads erect and faces exposed to the scrutiny of God.

##### 2. γυμνά naked.

a. Intellectually, morally, spiritually and emotionally we are naked before God.

(1) Phillips translates this verse:

"No creature has any cover from the sight of God; everything lies naked and exposed before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."

#### B. Hebrew Poetry in Psalm 139 shows This Total Exposure.

1. Verses 1-6: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it."

2. Verses 13-16 shows that God's knowledge pre-dates David's Birth.

"For You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."

**I. OUR KNOWLEDGE OF EACH OTHER IS SUPERFICIAL WHILE GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF US IS TOTAL:**

A. I Chron. 28:9: "... The Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."

B. I Sam. 16:7: "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

(We might be most surprised at those we reject which God accepts.)

C. Revelation 2:23: "...And all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

**II. THE WICKEDNESS OF NOAH'S DAY WAS FULLY KNOWN TO GOD.**

A. Genesis 6:5-7: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and he was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"

1. A quotation from Isbell concerning Ezekiel's time is in order here:

Q "Ezekiel had a difficult commission. He was sent with an unpopular message to a rebellious people, who received him with threatening words and hateful glances. As a preacher, he had emotionally shattering experiences. One which stunned him concerned the elders of Israel. The Lord led Ezekiel to a hole in the wall and told him to dig. When he dug, he found a door which led to a secret room filled with loathsome objects of heathen worship. Before these objects stood seventy elders of Israel, worshipping the abominations. How could such hypocrisy exist? The elders thought the secret chambers concealed their activities from God, as well as from men. They said: "The Lord does not

see us." But the Lord did see, and He sees today the secret chambers of our hearts."

### **III. GOD INTENDS TO EXPOSE US TO OURSELVES AT THE JUDGMENT DAY.**

- A. Luke 12:2-3: "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."
- B. Romans 2:16: "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."
- C. I Cor. 4:5: "... The Lord 'will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts; and then each one's ~~praise~~ <sup>PRAISE</sup> will come from God.'" <sup>PRAISE</sup>
- D. II Cor. 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

IV. CHRISTIANS CAN TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF COMFORT IN THESE SCRIPTURES FOR FOUR REASONS:

A. First: It means that God will be fair in judgment.

Q

"The unkindest cut is to have your actions ascribed to a wicked or self-seeking motive. People are quick to judge; often they judge wrongly. When someone does a generous act, possibly making a liberal gift to the church, some scoffer will argue that an ulterior motive informs the gift. When someone steps before the ranks, volunteering to lead in a special work, some shrivelled soul will accuse him of egotism. Tragically, there hardly seems any way to defend against misinformed and injurious judgments. If one is to lead the Lord's people, he must expect that his motives will be impugned on occasions. Men misjudge behavior because they only see the action itself; the intentions of the heart are unknown to them. Yes, many talented, sensitive people have been irreparably scarred because their conduct was grossly misjudged. This text assures that he who knows the heart will not misjudge us. This gives us confidence.

B. Secondly: Because All of our Efforts to do Right and to Serve are Known to God.

Q

"In every congregation there are deeds of evangelism and benevolence which never receive attention from the minister or elders; they go unrecorded in the church's weekly newsletter. The deeds are visible to God, however. Every effort we make in the Master's service is known to Him with whom we have to deal."

C. Thirdly: Because God is Fully Aware of all the Desires we Never Achieve.

Q

"Do aspirations constitute a basis upon which eternal judgment will be decided?...How can we translate the principle that God equates sincere desire and achievement to our lives? Take the example of a man who wants to be a missionary, and who learns the language and customs of the people he plans to evangelize. After arriving in the new country, before making a single convert, he dies. Was his whole effort futile? I believe God, who knows our hearts, will receive this man with the same joy as if he had labored decades, winning a whole continent to Christ. The angels and heavenly host will welcome him as a great missionary, a foot soldier of the cross."

1. Think of the great unaccomplished aspirations we have for our family.
2. Think of the unachieved goals we had for our congregation.

3. Think of the plans we made and failed at to change ourselves.

a. Does God see these great efforts even though we might fail?

(1) The Answer: An emphatic YES HE DOES AND HE CARES.

(a) Aren't you glad that God sees us even when we fail though our heart was in the right place?

D. Fourthly: God May Accept Us When We May Not Be Able to Accept Ourselves.

1. Listen to the author of Him With Whom We Have To Do.

"The fallibility of self-examination is double-edged. It means we can deceive ourselves by ascribing humanitarian motives for bad conduct; it means, also, that we can fault ourselves wrongly. It is possible to be overly sensitive and to imagine blame when none exists. And it is possible to attribute unChristian behavior to willful perversity, when this may be untrue. Our conduct may be caused by factors unknown to us, and which may overpower us and make our wills inoperative. Irrational behavior is sometimes due to a chemical imbalance, or to a vitamin deficiency, or to emotional stress arising out of environmental circumstances. Unknown to the person himself, one's physical or emotional health may have deteriorated so that he cannot control his actions. The apostle John, aware of the Christian's need for reassurance when his own heart would condemn him, wrote that this reassurance comes when we remember that God is greater than our hearts, and that He knows everything. (I John 3:19)

## CONCLUSION:

A. Let Us Look at the Nature of this ONE With Whom We Have To Do.

1. He knows us by name. (Matt. 10:30; Matt. 6:8; John 10:30)

2. He knows the hidden qualities of our lives.

3. He is Personally Concerned for the Welfare of Each of Us.

a. IPet. 5:7: "Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you."

4. He knows our holy aspirations and secret yearnings, knows the blows we absorb before failing, knows our thorns and crosses, knows the unheralded acts of mercy in His name, knows us better than we know ourselves.

LISTEN TO THE SWEET POET OF ISRAEL:

"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." (Ps. 139:23-24)

"The request is for God to make clearer to the person his own heart and his own ways, and his own thoughts. It is for the Great Physician to expose those things which need amendment.

B. "Will Not The Judge Of All The Earth Do Right?"