

Introduction

- An intensely personal Psalm
 - this is striking and surprising...
 - both in the context the Psalmist was writing in, before Christ, God distant and unknown...
 - but also in our contemporary context, where the awareness of a personal God with whom we can relate, who we can know and who knows us, has slipped away...

You know me (vs.1-6)

- Mr and Mrs illustration
 - game where couples are tested on how well they know each other...
- What the Psalmist is reflecting on in these first 6 verses is the amazing fact that God's knowledge of us is even greater, and even more intimate, than the closest marriage partners:
 - notice how God's knowledge is not an abstract knowledge
 - its not merely of bits flying round in universe, of galaxies and stars - bu of **me**
 - not just what I **do** (externals) but my thoughts, motives - the depths of my heart
- Those of us who are married will know that, even if only occasionally, we can still surprise our husband or wife...
 - but we can never surprise God!
- Psalmists initial reaction is in v.6:
 - *too wonderful for me*
 - its first of all meant to be good, to be known thus - a relationship that is secure, open... and still he loves us!

You know my world (vs.7-12)

- (*Struggled to find an appropriate title for this section!*)
- First God knows our world, our context:
 - **heavens** (up), **depths** (down), **dawn** (east), **sea** (Mediterranean, west)...
 - and in knowing our whole context, everything that happens around us, his purpose is still good for us (v.10)
- Second thread here is around the threat that God knowing us is to us:
 - we don't like our secrets being exposed... we don't like our true motivations, our real desires, our actual compromises being revealed...
 - God's complete knowledge of us strips away the pretense of uprightness and goodness we'd like to cloak ourselves with
 - we are not good, and God knows that - the Psalmist here is simply staring that reality in the face!
- **And he wants to run away!**
 - **(don't blame him!!)**
- Again, circle back to the conviction that God is good and has good in mind for us:
 - he is a God of grace, not law and performance
 - Galatians... Christ....
 - so **v.10** makes sense...

You know my beginnings (vs.13-18)

- Particular area where the Psalmist explores God's knowledge of him:
 - his beginnings, in the womb
 - even before anyone else had seen him - days before ultrasounds and medical science - God knew!
- This understanding of God's creative hand on life from conception stands behind the conviction that many Christians have that elective abortion is wrong

- Proper response to God's knowledge of me, and his hand in making me, is wonder and worship

You know my enemies (vs.19-24)

- Abrupt change of tone!
 - but the Psalmist is reflecting on all his life...
 - and that includes the opposition he is facing, those who oppose him, the challenging and difficult stuff he is having to deal with
 - and his conviction is that this too is stuff that is not beyond God's interest or knowledge
 - (his hatred for them is an expression of how much their opposition to God's good rule is offensive... this is the courage to put into works the stomach churning offense against all that is good we feel when we hear of a child abduction, of a Josef Fritzl imprisoning and raping his own daughter, of a brutal torture, of the luring of an innocent man to his death...)

Sting in the tail

- But the Psalmist is no naive, self-righteous fool, thinking himself better than everyone else!
 - there is an enemy within!
 - the human heart... my human heart... there is the ever present danger of offensive ways in me too...
 - "Lord, deal with them" is the Psalmist's prayer...
 - and our prayer too? (in Christ)