

## **SERMON**

**DATE: Saturday/Sunday, November 24-25, 2018**

**SERIES TITLE: LESSONS FROM PSALMS: *Words of Joy, Hope, Forgiveness and Gratitude***

**SERMON TITLE: Why You Can Count on God**

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139:1-18**

- [1] You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- [2] You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- [3] You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- [4] Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- [5] You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- [6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- [7] Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- [8] If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- [9] If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- [10] even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- [11] If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,"
- [12] even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- [13] For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- [14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- [15] My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- [16] Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- [17] How precious to me are your thoughts,<sup>[a]</sup> God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- [18] Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.

**November 24-25, 2018**

**Title: Why You Can Count on God**

**1. Because of who He is.**

- *Psalm 103:17-18: But from everlasting to everlasting, the LORD's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children, with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*
- *Psalm 100:3: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture*

**2. Because He knows you.** (vv 1-6)

**3. Because He is with you** (vv 7-12)

- With you in every place.  
~ Distance is only a human term.
- With you in every decision.
- With you in every difficulty.

**4. Because you are His.** (vv 13-18)

- You are a special object of God's love.

# Lagniappe

You can say a lot of things about Thanksgiving Day.

It's fun.

It's nice to have a day off.

It's wonderful to have family together.

I love the football games.

You probably have many other ideas you could add about Thanksgiving Day and being thankful.

One thing you cannot say is that giving thanks is easy. It's not. Why?

--Because being grateful is something learned. No child comes thankful. Children show our self-centeredness. In their minds, the whole world revolves around them. We only become thankful when we see beyond ourselves and understand the larger world.

-- Because we have so much. Being grateful has to do with appreciation for what you have. We live in a very privileged society. Recently I read that if you make \$35,000 a year, you make more money than 90% of the world. Is that percentage correct? This doesn't even seem possible to us in America. That makes giving thanks hard.

--Because of hard hearts and bad attitudes. Jealousy and envy make it hard to be grateful. An entitlement complex makes Thanksgiving Day seem insignificant.

--Because we leave God out of our lives. Thanksgiving is the most Christian of American holidays--even more so than Christmas! Giving thanks implies a giver. When you recognize the goodness and blessings of God, you make giving thanks more meaningful.

I hope you have had a great holiday, but I pray you will make giving thanks a part of your everyday activity. It's not easy to do so, but it will make every day a better day.