

Message #1055
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"CHEER UP--YOU ARE NOT AN ACCIDENT!"
{Psalm 139:13-18}

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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I've never been any place where the stars are more spectacular than in Hawaii. While vacationing on Maui in February Irma and I would walk each evening near the ocean and look into the heavens and marvel at the sight--millions of stars in our universe. It was overwhelming.

WHO AM I?

Looking at the incredible magnitude of the universe it's quite easy to feel somewhat insignificant. Questions emerge in our minds...

"Who Am I?"

"Why Am I Here?"

"Does Life Really Have Any Meaning and Purpose?" Sometimes as I read passages of scripture I try to understand what the writer was experiencing at the time--to get inside their skin--to feel what they were feeling.

The Psalms are a good model for this.

I envision the teenage boy, David, on a hillside tending his father's sheep late at night. As he stares into space and sees the immensity of the galaxy he could not contain his exuberance. He cries out...

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!" {Psalm 8:1,9}

...he's absolutely overwhelmed as he stares into the vast universe To David, the heavens declared the glory and the majesty of God. One night as he's peering off into space he ponders-- "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor!" {Psalm 8:3-5}

He's asking...

"Who am I?"

"How do I fit into all of this?"

"How could the God who created all of this possibly be interested in me?"

It's so easy today to feel insignificant--especially if one loses their eternal perspective.

In today's world...

...we're rapidly becoming numbers...statistical units...rather than meaningful individuals

...we have our PIN numbers for credit cards

...ID numbers for online banking

...Social Security numbers for identification

...Passwords and or ID numbers for to log on to the internet

...machines are rapidly taking the place of workers {ATM machines are rapidly replacing tellers at our banks...robots in our factories...all in the name of automation!}

...computers can do much more, much faster, and with greater accuracy than even the most skilled specialists

...my administrative assistant, Karen Warren, with her computer skills, can accomplish more in one day than two or three people could've done several years ago

As the Psalmist contemplates questions concerning his significance and his reason for existence he has a cathartic experience and realizes...

"I am someone special!"

"The God of the universe has crowned me with glory and honor!"

"I am not an accident!"

"I have a reason for being!"

As Rick Warren says in the book, "The Purpose Driven Life," "Your birth was no mistake or mishap, and your life is no fluke of nature. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He was not at all surprised by your birth...in fact, He expected it!

"Long before you were conceived by your parents you were conceived in the mind of God. It is not fate, nor chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that you are breathing at this very moment. You are alive because God wanted to create you! God has a purpose for you.

"God never does anything accidentally, and He never makes mistakes...and every person was designed with a purpose in mind."

That 139th Psalm read earlier today answers the Psalmist--and our--questions about our significance to God.

YOU ARE VERY SIGNIFICANT TO GOD

First--God knows you better than you even know yourself... "O Lord, You have searched me and You know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in, behind and before; You have laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain." {Psalm 139:1-6}

...with God there are no secrets

...He knows your every thought

...He knows you inside/out

...He knows every habit

...He knows every word you speak

...He knows your past

...He knows your future

...and the Psalmist is overwhelmed--it's as if he says,

"Man, this blows my mind!"

Isn't this comforting to know in a day of depersonalization? God knows all about you...and, knowing all this...God loves you! Amazing!

Secondly, God is always near you--"He never leaves you nor will He ever abandon you!"

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to You."

{Psalm 139:7-12}

No destiny can separate us from the fact of God!

...God is ALWAYS near!

...He is not distant

...He is not preoccupied
...if we go to Heaven...God is there!
...If we go to hell...one cannot escape God!
...there is no place where God is not!
...God is never absent!

Remember when you were young and how when you felt guilty you tried to hide from God by crawling under the covers or hiding under the bed? Perhaps you thought that God could not see you because no one else could. Not so!
You know what? There are many adults who are still trying to do that...they try to hide from God?

...impossible!
...no darkness, physical or mental, can hide us from God's presence
...He sees us all the time.
...He's ALWAYS there
...because He cares for you/me

Third: You are not an accident with God!

"You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

"How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.

When I awake, I am still with You!" {Psalm 139:13-18}

If you're ever tempted to think you're not important to God--read this section over again and again!

What a picture--God knitting us together while in our mother's womb--weaving until we became exactly what He designed us to be!

...at this the Psalmist shouts to God "Your works are wonderful!"

...I'm not a runt

...I'm not an accident

...I'm a creation of God!

God was there at conception!

God was there during the gestation period!

God was there at birth!

If ever you have a question about when life begins--read this!

Charles Swindoll in his book, "Living Beyond the Daily Grind," writes--

"Feeling insecure? Listen--God is likened to a potter who forms clay on His wheel, shaping and pressing and pulling at it until it takes the shape He has in mind. He then forms our days so that they are exactly the kind of days we should have to become the kind of person He wants us to be. There is little room left for insecurity once we understand His constant interest in our lives."

No wonder the Psalmist says: "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"

...how incredible!

...how vast!

...God's plans are magnificent!

I found a neat paraphrase of this passage this week that I'd like to share with you--

"For You, God, and none other, originated my vital organs {such as my kidneys}.

You knitted me together in the womb of my mother...My skeleton and bones were not hidden from You when I was made in that concealed place of protection, when my veins and arteries were skillfully embroidered together in variegated colors like fine needlepoint. Your eyes watched over me when I was just an embryo; and in

Your book the days I should experience were all described and recorded--the kind of days that would shape me into the person You want me to be--even before I had been born. How priceless and mighty and vast and numerous are Your thoughts of me, O God! Should I attempt to count them, they would outnumber the sand on the seashore. And Your plan isn't limited just to this life. Should I die, I would awaken securely in Your arms--I would be with You more than ever before!"

CONCLUSION--CHEER UP! YOU'RE NOT AN ACCIDENT!

When God created the world--He was thinking of you!

You are custom made by God!

Talk about something mind boggling!

You are precision made!

And why did God do all of this?

Because God is love!

...AND...{get this}--GOD CREATED US AS OBJECTS OF HIS LOVE!

God says through the Prophet Isaiah--

"I have carried you since you were born; I have taken care of you from your birth.

Even when you are old, I will be the same. Even when your hair has turned gray, I

will take care of you. I made you and will take care of you!" {Isaiah 46:3-4}

God made you for a reason. When God becomes the reference point of our lives we discover that meaning...and His purpose for us!

So overwhelmed...and thrilled, the Psalmist concludes by praying-- "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" {Psalm 139:23-24}