

WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF ME?

"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." Psalm 139:23-24.

We are going to let God search us. We want to find out just what He thinks of us. We are not going to try to find out what the world thinks of us. The world may give the very opposite report of us to what God would give. The world may praise while He condemns, or the world may condemn while He praises. We are not even seeking the opinion of our nearest and dearest friends. Even they may be deceived in us. "Man looketh on the outward appearance but God looketh on the heart." Our only desire is to discover what God thinks of us. God has perfect knowledge of us. He will search us fairly, impartially, and fully.

We have here:--

1. A Request For Divine Scrutiny.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thought."

This request implies:--

(1) Consciousness of sincerity.

It is not the request of one who was ignorant of his true character and inflated with presumption, but of one who was conscious of his freedom from hypocrisy and of his integrity of heart. He wanted a thorough investigation of himself. Look me through and through, and tell me what Thou thinkest of me. Not that God was to thus obtain information unknown to Him before; but the asker, penetrated with a sense of sinfulness, desires God to search his heart, that the heart--with all its tendencies, passions, evils--may become known to Himself through God's inquest.

(2) Distrust of self.

David felt his liability to error, and to self-deception.

(3) Confidence in God.

He boldly offered himself to the scrutiny of God's righteous judgments.

2. A Desire For Freedom From Evil.

This is implied in the request, "And see if there be any wicked way in me." Any wicked way of:--

- (1) Unbelief.
- (2) Vanity and pride.
- (3) Selfishness.
- (4) Worldiness.
- (5) Self-dependence.
- (6) Disobedience.

I believe this includes:--

- (1) Any corruption concealed.
- (2) Any lust harboured.
- (3) Any vicious appetite indulged.

- (4) Any sinful course persisted in.
- (5) Anything dark to enlighten.
- (6) Anything erroneous to correct.
- (7) Anything injurious to remove.
- (8) Anything degrading to elevate.
- (9) Anything impure to cleanse.

3. A Request For Divine Guidance.

"And lead me in the way everlasting."

In this text, we have:--

- (1) Spiritual ignorance confessed.
- (2) Divine condescension besought.
- (3) Perpetual guidance implored.
- (4) Man's need of guidance.
He is exposed to temptation, and prone to go astray.
- (5) Man's infallible Guide.
The Lord is perfectly acquainted with both the traveller and the way.

When one considers this prayer carefully and seriously, he realizes that it is:--

- (1) A very beautiful prayer.
- (2) A very impressive prayer.
- (3) A very personal prayer.
- (4) A very honest prayer.
- (5) A very practical prayer.
- (6) A very needful prayer.

If one will only look within and consider his own thoughts, motives, desires, and purposes, he will see the need for such a prayer.

Coming back to the question of our subject,

I. What Does God Think of My Words?

Do they indicate that I am genuine and sincere, free from all deception, and a stranger to hypocrisy? Are my words, clean, wholesome, uplifting, encouraging, sympathetic, helpful, Christ-honoring, and pleasing to God?

II. What Does God Think Of My Worship?

Do I spend enough time with Him in private? Do I get alone with God? Do I delight to meet Him in the inner chamber? Is communion with Him sweet to me? Am I a student of GOD's Word? Do I study it in private, or is it all done in public? Does He unfold its secrets and make them real to me? Do I claim His promises and make them mine? Is my life saturated with prayer? Do I pray and get answers? Do I say prayers merely, or do I really pray? Mrs. Morgan asked Brother Howerton, "Do you have anybody in your church who can pray?"

III. What Does God Think Of My Work?

Am I earnest? Am I sincere? Am I loyal to Him? Am I selfish? Am I genuine? Is my work counting for God? Does my life tell for Jesus? Do I waste the time that rightly belongs to Him? Can I win souls to Christ? Do I ever try? Have I spoken to any one about his soul during the past year? Do my unsaved friends know that I am a Christian? Am I able to lead others into a life of power and victory? Am I making progress in spiritual things? Am I a growing Christian? Am I better this year than last? Is Jesus more real to me? Can my friends see any difference in me? What does God think of me? Is He satisfied with the way that I am working for Him?