



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: Values
Sermon Title: "Search Me"
Passage: Psalm 139:23-24

Connection to Ezekiel 16:20-21; 23:36-39; Psalm 139:13-16

God values human life, and so do His people. Embracing His values involves asking Him to search us.

Introduction/Opening

When the notion of being searched comes to mind, images of police officers, search warrants, and criminal investigations come to mind. According to the psalmist, being searched has to do with observing what's actually there.

The Lord values human life. He proves how much He values human life by sending His Son to die for us so we can receive His gift of salvation. When we give our lives to Him, we embrace the sanctity of human life in keeping with His transforming work in us as we grow in Him.

Embracing the Lord's values like the sanctity of human life involves removing and replacing. We remove the values that don't honor Him, and we replace them with values that honor Him.

How do we grow in Him so we can honor His values enough to embrace them for ourselves? According to this Bible passage, the process of removing and replacing values starts with a search. We allow the Lord to search our lives and show us what's important to us. Where do we ask Him to search?

Outline

1. We ask Him to search our hearts (v. 23a).
 - a. Our hearts serve as our life center.
 - b. We don't actually know what's in our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9).
 - c. God alone knows what's really tucked away in our hearts.
 - d. We need Him to show us how to nourish a heart that's receptive to Him.

2. We ask Him to search our concerns (v. 23b).
 - a. Our concerns cause us to nurture anxious thoughts that bother us.
 - b. Our anxious thoughts can reflect a problem with misplaced trust in the Lord.
 - c. God alone has a complete understanding of what's really bothering us.
 - d. We need Him to show us how to trust Him with our concerns (Psalm 94:19).

3. We ask Him to search our ways (v. 24).
 - a. Our ways shed light on the life path that we've taken.
 - b. We can deceive ourselves into thinking that we've chosen the path of wisdom.
 - c. God alone knows if we're taking a life-destroying path that dishonors Him.
 - d. We need Him to help us, so we'll take the life-giving path that honors Him.

Conclusion

Believers are ready to make the Lord's values our own when we allow Him to take a long look into our hearts, our concerns, and our steps. Are you willing to let Him search you?

If you haven't believed in Christ, rest assured that He values you! Your life means so much to Him that He died for you and then conquered death for you. Turn to Him by repenting and placing your trust in Him. Only when He saves you can you grasp the value that He and His people place on human life.

Argile Smith serves as the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS. He graduated from William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD).