

Pilgrims' Course 2023 – Session 1

Psalm 139. (*Coverdale Psalter*)

Domine, probasti.

O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me : thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.

2 Thou art about my path, and about my bed : and spiest out all my ways.

3 For lo, there is not a word in my tongue : but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

4 Thou hast fashioned me behind and before : and laid thine hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me : I cannot attain unto it.

6 Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit : or whither shall I go then from thy presence?

7 If I climb up into heaven, thou art there : if I go down to hell, thou art there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning : and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;

9 Even there also shall thy hand lead me : and thy right hand shall hold me.

10 If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me : then shall my night be turned to day.

11 Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day : the darkness and light to thee are both alike.

12 For my reins are thine : thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

13 I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made : marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.

14 My bones are not hid from thee : though I be made secretly, and fashioned beneath in the earth.

15 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect : and in thy book were all my members written;

16 Which day by day were fashioned when as yet there was none of them.

17 How dear are thy counsels unto me, O God : O how great is the sum of them!

18 If I tell them, they are more in number than the sand : when I wake up I am present with thee.

19 Wilt thou not slay the wicked, O God : depart from me, ye blood-thirsty men.

20 For they speak unrighteously against thee : and thine enemies take thy Name in vain.

21 Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee : and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

22 Yea, I hate them right sore : even as though they were mine enemies.

23 Try me, O God, and seek the ground of my heart : prove me, and examine my thoughts.

24 Look well if there be any way of wicked ness in me : and lead me in the way everlasting.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NRSV)

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

I John 3:2 (NRSV)

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Julian of Norwich

He shewed me a little thing, the size of a hazel-nut in the palm of my hand; and it was round as a ball. I looked thereon, and thought: *What may this be?* And it was answered thus: *It is all that is made.* I marveled how it might last. for methought it might suddenly have fallen to naught for very littleness. And I answered: *It lasteth, and ever shall be, for God loveth it.* And so All-thing hath the Being through the love of God.

(Revelations of Divine Love, Chapter V)

Michael Ramsey

We exist in order that we may become like God, have intercourse with God, ‘give glory’ to God. This is something called ‘worship’ – but see how deep and wide it goes. It means loving God above all else for the perfection that is his; but, because he is perfect love, our love for him is reflected in our love and our practical service of our fellows and our community. But, because it is all his gift, and we are utterly dependent on him, our love of our fellows brings us back again to ‘give glory’ to God – the source of all good, the essence of all good.

(Introducing the Christian Faith, Chapter I)

**GOD
MAN
THINGS**

**THINGS
MAN
GOD**

Quotes – The Existence of God

A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word, 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.

C.S. Lewis

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.

Winston Churchill

For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything.

G. K. Chesterton

A god who let us prove his existence would be an idol.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I do not feel obliged to believe that same God who endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect had intended for us to forgo their use.

Galileo

The theory that thought is merely a movement in the brain is, in my opinion, nonsense; for if so, that theory itself would be merely a movement, an event among atoms, which may have speed and direction but of which it would be meaningless to use the words 'true' or 'false'.

C.S. Lewis

But for my faith in God, I should have been a raving maniac.

Mahatma Gandhi

If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that I am with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence.

Pope John Paul II

Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.

Abraham Lincoln

Someone once said that if you sat a million monkeys at a million typewriters for a million years, one of them would eventually type out all of Hamlet by chance. But when we find the text of Hamlet, we don't wonder whether it came from chance and monkeys. Why then does the atheist use that incredibly improbable explanation for the universe? Clearly, because it is his only chance of remaining an atheist. At this point we need a psychological explanation of the atheist rather than a logical explanation of the universe.

Peter Kreeft

If God were small enough to be understood, He would not be big enough to be worshiped.

Evelyn Underhill

Atheism is a crutch for those who cannot bear the reality of God.

Tom Stoppard

Christ said, 'I am the Truth'; he did not say 'I am the custom'.

St. Toribio

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I've read the last page of the Bible. It's all going to turn out all right.

Billy Graham

Something can be thought of as existing, which cannot be thought of as not existing, and this is greater than that which can be thought of as not existing. Thus, if that than which a greater cannot be thought can be thought of as not existing, this very thing which a greater cannot be thought is not that than which a greater cannot be thought. But this is contradictory. So, then, there is truly a being than which a greater cannot be thought--so truly that it cannot even be thought of as not existing.

St Anselm (from Proslogion)