**God Without Limits**

Talk 7: Omniscient

*“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I had got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.” Mark Twain*

**Introduction**

 *Your knowledge:*

**1. God knows us perfectly**

Psalm 139

Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (NIV 2011)

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (NIV 2011)

*“There is nothing new that [God] could learn about you that would put him off. God really knows you and, knowing you, he really loves you.” Nick Tucker, 12 Things God Can’t Do, p36*

**2. God knows the future perfectly**

Is this bad news?

*“[God’s knowledge] is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to him contingent, or uncertain.” The London Baptist Confession, II, 2*

Psalm 139:4 Before a word is on my tongue

 you know it completely, O Lord.

Psalm 139:16 All the days ordained for me

 were written in your book

 before one of them came to be.

Prayer

*“It is a glorious and comforting thought that when we pray, God answers that prayer not in line with the way we see things but in line with the perfect way that He sees things. For believers, that means that as our loving Father, God gives us precisely what we would give to ourselves if we knew everything that He knows. And He also withholds from us what we would withhold from ourselves if we knew what He knows.” Barry Cooper, Ligonier website*

**3. We must approach him humbly**

“and you will be like God, *knowing*…” (Genesis 3:5)

**David**

Psalm 19:6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,

 too lofty for me to attain.

Psalm 139:17 How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

 How vast is the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them,

 they would outnumber the grains of sand.

**Job**

Job 42:1    Then Job replied to the LORD:

2    “I know that you can do all things;

 no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

3 You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’

 Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,

 things too wonderful for me to know. (NIV 2011)

**Paul**

Romans 11:33    Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

 How unsearchable his judgments,

 and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?

 Or who has been his counsellor?”

35 “Who has ever given to God,

 that God should repay them?”

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things.

 To him be the glory forever! Amen. (NIV 2011)

**Reflection Questions**

1. In what ways has God’s omniscience been a comfort to you tonight?

2. Are there any questions that you are left with?

3. [For Romans group members] How will this talk help you to approach Romans 9 in studies later? It’s a passage that teaches us about God’s foreknowledge in salvation.

**Psalm 131 – to pray in response**

**0** *A song of ascents. Of David.*

**1**    My heart is not proud, LORD,

 my eyes are not haughty;

 I do not concern myself with great matters

 or things too wonderful for me.

**2** But I have calmed and quieted myself,

 I am like a weaned child with its mother;

 like a weaned child I am content.

**3** Israel, put your hope in the LORD

 both now and forevermore. (NIV 2011)