



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 48 No. 43

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

October 25, 2020

## LEAD ME IN THE WAY EVERLASTING

**O**f the 150 psalms, King David wrote 73 of them. There is some speculation that he may have written a couple more but that is uncertain. Regardless, almost half of the psalms were penned by a man after God's own heart (Acts 13 :22). Throughout those psalms we learn many things about David. The more we learn about him the more we realize why he was called a man after God's own heart. It becomes clear that David desired to be pleasing to God in whatever way he could. Granted, he was not perfect but he loved the Lord and in many instances did his best to obey Him. David is a wonderful example for us today. He shows us in many ways the type of character we all ought to have. One example of this is what he wrote in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." There are a couple of things that we can learn from these verses.

In verse 23 David pleads with the Lord to search his heart, and thoughts. As we know already, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he ... " (Proverbs 23:7). David understood that his heart defined him, as it does us all. Having this knowledge David wanted God to examine him. To me, this is amazing. Most people would love to hide their heart from God. They do not want anyone to know who they truly are and they certainly would not want the Lord to know who they are. This was not the case for David. He wanted God to search him. Perhaps this is because David realized the futility in trying to hide his heart from God. As we can see in Jeremiah 17:10, "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind ... " No matter who we are, or how well we can hide our true selves from others, the Lord will always know us better than

anyone else. To try to hide our hearts from Him would be vain. However, I do not think that is why David desires for the Lord to search him. I believe that is because of the love that David has for God. If you readjust a few of David's psalms it becomes evident that he truly loves the Lord. In fact, this point becomes clear when you consider verse 24.

There he says, "and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." David wants God to search him so that the Lord can correct him. This reminds me of what Christ teaches in Matthew 7:7-8, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Later in that passage Christ states, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (V. 11) The greatest thing we could ever ask for is exactly what David asked, that God would lead him in the way everlasting. There are many things which the Lord gives us but there is none more important than wisdom and knowledge of what is true. David knew this, and as a result had the earnest desire for God to search him and if there was anything lacking that God would correct him. This mindset is so amazing, and it is the mindset we should all have. If we are failing, if we are wicked that God would correct us and lead us in the way everlasting.

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