

TRUTH PURSUER

Proverbs 15:9

Out of the Box

by Joshua Cooley

A lot of kids try to shove God into a pretty tight space in their lives. They put God in a box and don't give over every part of themselves to Him.

But trying to put God in a box is silly. The Almighty can't be contained by five panels and a lid. In our sinful minds, we often restrict Him to a small space, thinking: *There's no way God can meet all my needs,* or *There's no way God can help me in all my troubles,* or *There's no way God can love me completely.*

But nothing could be further from the truth! Stop reading this magazine for a moment and imagine a God whose knowledge can't be understood, whose power is without limit and whose love has no end.

Finished? Well, whatever you just imagined isn't nearly enough. Your thoughts are bound by human limitations. You basically just dipped your little toe into the indescribably enormous ocean of knowing God!

Super Snapshot

Do you want an accurate picture of God? Just read Psalm 139. (Asking your parents to read it with you could create great family time.) This masterful song, written by King David, reveals God's detailed knowledge of us, His love for us and His care in creating us.

Many people think of God as a supernatural grandfather, watching us run around the playroom of Earth and occasionally getting up from His recliner to comfort us when we fall down and skin our knee. Other people see God as a divine clockmaker, winding up the world to start it but then stepping back to let it run on its own.

But God isn't like that at all. He's a personal, active and loving God. Just look at how the first five verses

of Psalm 139 describe Him:

- "You **KNOW** when I sit and when I rise."
- "You **PERCEIVE** my thoughts from afar."
- "You **DISCERN** my going out and my lying down."
- "You **HEM** me in behind and before."
- "You **HAVE LAID** your hand upon me."

God is not distant and uncaring. He is a loving heavenly Father. He knows every detail about you: the color of your eyes, how much you weigh and the number of hairs on your head. He knows what your favorite candy bar is. He knows you are reading this article right now. He even knows the very next words you'll speak.



Here and There and ...

God not only knows everything, He also exists everywhere (see verses 7-12). That can be tough to understand, but God is not human. He is Spirit, and He lives

everywhere. Every corner of the universe is under His authority.

God's existence, in fact, extends well beyond us. He was around long before we were. Psalm 139:13-16 contains one of the Bible's most beautiful descriptions of God's creative abilities. The Lord God Almighty, who created countless planets, stars and galaxies, carefully formed you out of nothing. He "knit" and "wove" you into His image with the skill of a master craftsman.

Loved Without Limit

Let these truths encourage you! Are you struggling with loneliness? Do you feel bad for all the times you sin? Have you ever thought, *I'm just not good enough*? Well, Psalm 139 reveals the error in that thinking, because here's the amazing truth: God knows us completely . . . and He *still* loves us!

Let's face it: We are not very lovable. Apart from God we are mean, selfish, disobedient people. God knows the darkness of our sinful hearts. Every act of disobedience is recorded in heaven's library (Revelation 20:12). And

KNOW THE INCREDIBLE

Scientists estimate that the universe holds at least 70 sextillion stars (that's a seven with 22 zeroes)!

70,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

Even with a universe so vast, Psalm 147:4 tells us that God "determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name." Can you imagine knowing *that* many names? And yet the verse just before says, "[God] heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

God is both powerful and personal. The best choice you can make is to get to know Him better each day!

despite all this, God looked at His only Son, Jesus Christ, and basically said, "They deserve death. But I want You to suffer in their place."

Why in the world did God do this? Because He loves us.

Still Bigger

Are you jumping and shouting for joy yet? You might want to! This is the wonderful truth of Psalm 139—that a holy, sinless God affectionately created humans, watched as we chose to disobey Him and still loved us enough to send Jesus to die for our sins.

Do you know what that means? You are invaluable to God. The Lord of the universe loves you more than you can imagine. He wants you to repent of your sins and trust Him so He can welcome you to live with Him for eternity.

What a great God!

So, remember that box—the imaginary one you might have stuffed God in? Open it wide! God and His love for us are far too big for the tiny boxes of our limited minds.

Let's start thinking bigger thoughts of God! ■



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