

“His Understanding Is Infinite”
(Psalm 147:5)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation: How can the Lord do all that He does?

1. Consider just the things mentioned in this psalm:

- a. He counts the stars – which are at least as many, if not more, than the grains of sand on the seashore – and gives names to all of them (v. 4).
- b. He controls the weather –
 - (i) He covers the heavens with clouds and provides rain for the earth (v. 8);
 - (ii) He fills the lakes and inland seas with water –
 - (iii) He gives snow, frost and ice, and then causes the wind to melt it, making the waters flow (v. 18) and the plants to grow (v. 8).
 - (iv) He provides food for His creatures – the beasts and young ravens (v. 9).
 - (v) Including for you (v. 14).
- c. He builds up His church,
 - (i) Gathering people like you out of the world (v. 2).
 - (ii) He gives you His Word –
 - (a) His statutes and ordinances –
 - (b) Not only to show you the way of life, but how to live so as to give Him glory and bring you blessing (vv. 19-20).
 - (iii) He works in your hearts to heal you spiritually and cause you to grow.
 - (iv) He blesses you and your children (v. 13).
 - (v) He protects you (v. 13).
 - (a) He comes to your aid when your enemies attack you,
 - (b) While at the same time overcoming your enemies (v. 6).
 - (vi) He gives you peace – He blesses this nation with peace for your sake (v. 14).

2. For all these things,

- a. The psalmist says you should thank and praise Him.
- b. For all these things, you should love Him.

B. Preview.

1. But how is He able to give you all these blessings in the face of all the bad things that are in this world?

- a. The answer is in verse 5, “Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.”
- b. It’s by His great power to do what He wants to do,
 - (i) Guided by His infinite understanding –
 - (ii) His limitless knowledge and the wisdom necessary to apply these things.

2. This evening, let's focus on the second of these two reasons: His infinite understanding.
 - a. Here we can't help but see how this benefits each one of us.
 - b. But let's also understand that if God didn't have this,
 - (i) He wouldn't be the God you know;
 - (ii) He wouldn't be worthy of your love.
 - (iii) This is another one of His infinite perfections.
 - c. We'll look at two things:
 - (i) First, you should love God for His infinite knowledge.
 - (ii) Second, you should love Him because of His infinite wisdom: His ability to apply this knowledge in your life in a way that brings about His blessed ends.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, you should love God for His infinite knowledge.
 1. What does it mean that God has infinite knowledge?
 - a. It means first that there are no boundaries to it.
 - (i) There's nothing He doesn't know.
 - (ii) Nothing He can learn.
 - (iii) He knows it all.
 - (a) You've seen the carnival game where you guess how many gumballs are in the jar.
 - (b) How close do you think you would come in guessing how many grains of sand there are on all the beaches of the world?
 - (c) God doesn't have to guess – He knows.
 - b. Because He knows everything, nothing can take Him by surprise.
 - (i) He knows everything that will take place.
 - (ii) He knows everything that could take place given any set of circumstances.
 - (iii) His knowledge is comprehensive.
 - c. His knowledge is also eternal.
 - (i) He not only knows all things, He has always known all things.
 - (ii) He didn't have to sit down to figure out what He would do – what He would allow and what not.
 - (iii) He's always known what He was going to do.
 - d. How does this apply to you? First it means that God knows you.
 - (i) His knowledge of you is comprehensive.
 - (a) He knows everything about you.
 - (b) He knew when you would be born.
 - (c) He knows when you are going to die.
 - (d) He knows every thought, before you think it.

- (e) He knows every word you will ever say before you say it.
 - (f) He knows everything you will ever do.
 - (g) Everything you will aspire to.
 - (h) Everything you will actually achieve.
 - (i) He knows absolutely everything.
- (ii) And He knows it eternally.
- (a) He doesn't learn things about you as time goes on.
 - (b) He's not guessing or extrapolating from what's happening in your life now to what will happen in the future.
 - (c) He doesn't have to look down the corridors of time to see what you will do.
 - (d) He has always known these things,
 - (e) Before you were conceived,
 - (f) Before the world was created.
 - (g) Your whole life has been an eternal idea in the mind of God:
 - (h) Everything you were, everything you are, everything you will be.
 - (i) He not only knows these things about you, but about everyone else as well.

2. Now why should the fact that God knows all things make you love Him?
- a. This was how He was able to choose you.
- (i) Knowing you, He chose to set His love on you (Rom. 8:29).
 - (ii) You might think you were a pretty good guy or gal – that it's no mystery why the Lord chose to save you.
 - (iii) The sad fact is that you weren't good and God knew it.
 - (iv) He knew exactly what you would be like.
 - (a) He knew the sin of your heart.
 - (b) The things you would think that would be dishonoring to Him.
 - (c) The bad desires you would have.
 - (d) The wrong things you would do.
 - (e) And yet, in spite of this, He still chose to save you.
 - (1) He didn't choose you because of what He saw you would do.
 - (2) He chose you because of what you would become in Christ.
 - (3) His choice had nothing to do with you, and everything to do with Him.
 - (f) Knowing you, He chose to predestine you to become conformed to the image of His Son (v. 29),
 - (g) To call you, to justify and glorify you (vv. 29-30).
 - (h) If God didn't have infinite knowledge, He never could have chosen you.
 - (i) You should love Him because this is how He was able to save you.
- b. You should love Him because of how this will help you when you fall into sin.

- (i) He not only knew what you would do before He saved you, He knew what you would do after.
 - (ii) You know how it can be when you sin:
 - (a) You wonder how a Christian could do that.
 - (b) You wonder whether the Lord still loves you, whether He's ever loved you,
 - (c) Whether you'll see heaven.
 - (d) You wonder because you've offended the Spirit,
 - (1) And quenched His work,
 - (2) And now because His influence is weaker,
 - (3) You don't sense His love as strongly.
 - (iii) But can this change anything with regard to God's foreloving and predestining you?
 - (a) No.
 - (b) If you were a Christian, you still are.
 - (c) If you were on your way to heaven, you're still going there.
 - (d) The reason nothing's changed is because God doesn't change.
 - (e) You haven't surprised Him.
 - (f) He knew you were going to do these things.
 - (g) And yet He still loved you and chose to save you.
- c. Here's another reason you should love Him for His infinite knowledge:
- (i) God doesn't just know what will happen.
 - (ii) His knowing guarantees it will happen.
 - (a) The Arminians of Edwards' day believed that God made man with a free will –
 - (1) In the sense that he could freely choose either good or evil –
 - (2) They believed that to be free man had to be able to make his choices free from anything that would influence it one way or the other.
 - (3) They couldn't be certain choices – choices that had to take place, that couldn't happen any other way.
 - (b) Edwards responded that the fact God knows what those choices are makes them certain.
 - (1) If He knows them, they must be things that are going to happen,
 - (2) Otherwise He couldn't know them.
 - (c) But Edwards went further:
 - (1) The reason God knows what they will choose is because this is what He has planned.
 - (2) If God knows what's going to happen, He must have either approved or disapproved of it.
 - (3) If He didn't approve of it, He wouldn't have let it happen.
 - (4) The fact that it happens means He did approve of it.

- (5) His approving or disapproving of these things is the same as His being willing or not willing that they happen.
- (6) But that's exactly what it means that He decrees all things.
- (7) His knowledge of what is going to happen in the future is really His decree.

(iii) Now why should you love God for this?

- (a) If you are trusting Jesus Christ to save you this evening,
- (b) This means God knew you would – this was His eternal purpose, this was His plan.
- (c) The reason He knew this was because He knew He would give you the grace to believe.
- (d) If this was His eternal purpose,
- (e) You will be saved.

B. Second, you should love Him because of His infinite wisdom: His ability to apply this knowledge in your life in a way that brings about His blessed ends.

1. You just heard that God knows what's going to happen because He decreed that it would.
 - a. What He knows is what He willed would happen.
 - b. But let's not forget that the things He's willed shows His infinite wisdom.

2. He is so wise,

- a. He's not only able to bring good results from the good things His people do,
- b. He can bring them out of the bad things evil men do as well.
- c. He was able to save His people from a famine and make them grow into a great nation from the evil actions of a group of brothers.
 - (i) Joseph's brothers hated him.
 - (ii) They threw him into a pit, sold him as a slave and told his father that he was dead.
 - (iii) All they really wanted to do was kill him, but they settled on making a little money by selling him.
 - (iv) But what did the Lord intend through this?
 - (a) This was His plan to get Joseph into Egypt,
 - (b) Then into prison, where he could interpret the dreams of two men,
 - (c) One of which was released and stood before Pharaoh,
 - (d) So that when the Lord gave Pharaoh a dream, he could tell Pharaoh about Joseph,
 - (e) So that Joseph could interpret Pharaoh's dream and be raised to second in command,
 - (f) So that he could gather together enough food to save Egypt in the coming famine,
 - (g) So that Joseph's family could eventually come down to Egypt,
 - (h) Where the Lord could provide for them and make them into a great nation (Gen. 37-50).

- (i) Only infinite wisdom could bring these good results from such evil actions.
- d. Another great example is the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
- (i) Through the greatest crime in history committed by a group of wicked men,
 - (ii) The Lord brought about the salvation of all His people.
 - (iii) The Lord is able to work all things together for good, and for the good of His people who love Him (Rom. 8:28).
3. Why should you love Him for this?
- a. God is able to work together absolutely everything that happens to you for good – if you love Him this evening – and this is in fact what He is doing.
 - b. He is bringing good things out of the hard things you have to face in life – the losses, the temptations, the trials, even the sins you commit.
 - (i) This doesn't give you an excuse to sin – you should never sin that grace might abound.
 - (ii) But you can know that even when you sin, the Lord will bring some good out of it.
 - (iii) That's because He is infinitely wise.
 - c. Shouldn't you love a God like this?
 - d. Do you love Him?
 - e. Does His infinite knowledge and wisdom frighten you?
 - (i) It should if you don't know Him,
 - (ii) Because He knows everything that you will ever do and will bring you into account for them.
 - (iii) If that is the case with you, turn to Him this evening – trust in His Son, turn from your sins.
 - (iv) Then you don't have to be afraid.
 - f. But if you do know Him, it should comfort you.
 - (i) What if God didn't know everything?
 - (ii) There are some – called Open Theists - who believe this.
 - (iii) They think God learns and grows as He sees things happen in this world.
 - (iv) He doesn't really know what's going to happen –
 - (a) Because if He did, then those things would be certain to happen –
 - (b) This is the logical conclusion of those Edwards had to face in his day.
 - (v) But if it's true that nothing was certain to happen, then it would also be true that nothing God wanted to happen would be certain.
 - (vi) And if nothing He wanted to happen was certain, then there would be no guarantee that everything would work for your good – that you would ever make it to heaven.
 - (vii) Could you love a God that was ignorant, that couldn't guarantee that anything He wanted to happen would actually happen?

- (viii) Thankfully this isn't the case.
 - (a) He has infinite understanding.
 - (b) And this limitless knowledge and wisdom doesn't work against you, but in your favor.
 - (c) It's the reason you will arrive in heaven.
 - (d) God has a plan, which is why He knows the future, which is also why you will be saved.
 - (e) Shouldn't you love a God like this?
 - (f) Would you have Him to be any other way?
 - (g) Do you love Him?
 - (h) I hope you do. Amen.

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