

So after looking at this phase of it and seeing the marvellous complexity of what God has done, then he breaks forth into joy over the marvellous knowledge of God.

So he says in vv.17-18, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me O Lord, how great is the sum of them. If I should count them they are more in number than the sand. When I awake I am still with thee." Now he is rejoicing in God's goodness and power. Rejoicing in that which at first seemed to oppress him. Now as he rejoices in this you can naturally go one as so many of our responsive readings do, ~~if~~ if you want to to vv.23-24: "Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my ~~WXXX~~ thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." And this jumps right on from the observation of these facts to the joy in them. And now you are not saying, O God sees everything I do, but you are saying, O God look into me and see more; understand it thoroughly and bring it to my attention in order that I may do my best to bring my life in accord with your purposes.

But you know I think we make a mistake a Paalm and skip here and there. God gave us them as a whole and God did not put something in between for us to skip. He put it in for us to study and interpret and understand it in relation to the rest of the Psalm.

So after his recognition of the marvel of God's thoughts, then we find him ~~szz~~ saying in v.19, "Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God; depart from me therefore ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them O Lord that hate thee; am not I grieved with those that rise up ~~agiz~~ against thee. I hate them with perfect hatred. I count them mine enemies." You might call these four verses the verses of hate. People talk about the Bible as a great book of love, and it is. God is love. But here are four verese - verses of hate, and the thought of hate is stressed: I hate them with perfect hatred. I count them mine enemies. You cannot explain light simply on the viewpoint that everything is lovely and rosey and all we need to ~~x~~ do is rejoice and go ahead. Because there is a fact of wickedness. There is a fact of sin. There is a fact of antagnoism to God which is staring us in the face in life. There are those philosophies that say, O everything is beautiful, everything is just lovely. We're going onward and onward and upward and upward forever. There arn't so many of them today. That was the common note about 30 yrs. ago. Everything is beautiful! Today they are going to the other extreme and many of the so called existentialists seem to rejoice in how terrible things are. I talked to the head of the dept. of history in one of our great universities, a man who had ten professors under him. He had come from a fine Christian family, but had departed from the viewpoints there. He said to me, All we can do is to build on a firm foundation of unyielding despair! What is a firm foundation of unyielding despair? He looked at the universe and he saw misery & gloom. He saw hatred. He saw brutality, in it. In the animal creation,