

Psalm 139

...the problem. Now, it is not necessary to read ~~th~~ it that way, we can read the first part of it as praise to God, as the last of it is. But I think a good argument can be made for that, and I think there is special food for our souls if we think of it that way. I^N other words, that the first part of the Psalm recognizes a situation, ~~now~~ not a situation ~~x~~ as in those psalms in which the man is in sorrow, in misery, in suffering, and then ~~He~~ he finds God's answer later. But a situation in which he faces a fact, and feels himself oppressed by the fact, and then later on ~~x~~ comes to glory in the very ~~x~~ fact which seemed to oppress him at the first. Now, let's look at it from ~~that~~ that ~~x~~ view-point. Let's think of a man on this world here, feeling a bit oppressed by the omniscience and omnipresence of God. Look at it from that viewpoint, you find your problem in the first twelve verses and particularly in the first seven, "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down sitting and mine uprising, ~~h~~ thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my ~~h~~ lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou ~~x~~ hast ~~been~~ beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon ~~me~~. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it." C.S. Lewis tells how greatly he was influenced in his early life by the poem the Hound of God. That poem which shows the man trying to flee from God and God pursuing Him with love. I think we have something of the same picture that Mr. Bancroft spoke to us and ~~x~~ told us something of his experience, how with a Christian family background --with much ~~knowledge~~ knowledge of Christian things, he as a young man rebelled against it. As a young man, he wanted his own life to ~~em-~~ count for his own ~~pet~~ ~~pet~~ pleasures, for his own desires in this life, and above all things, he wasn't going to be a minister. And if he were to be a minister, ~~je-e-~~ he certainly would