***Psalm 139:17-18 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.***

Another great day of Baptism! God has been so good to us. Vacation Bible School with so many children, many being drawn to the Lord. We always must remember that it is God that gives the increase. I may water what another has planted, but it is God that gives the blessing.

This morning, we’re looking at Psalm 139, verses 17 & 18. In verses 1-16, David is marveling that God loves us though He knows our thoughts, wickedness, and our weakness. God loves us deeply. He wants relationship with us – with you, with me – personal relationship. Thoughts are the foundation of relationship. Without thought, no personal relationship happens. Psalm 8:4 says - *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?* God sees us, convicts us, draws us, cleanses us, blesses us. What have we done to deserve such an awesome God, such a love as His except to receive His free gift of salvation through His son?

Verse 17 starts *How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!* How precious – how indescribably valuable! Priceless! More precious than all earthly wealth is one thought of God. Thoughts can be both ways in this verse. Priceless are the thoughts of God **to me** . Albert Einstein is famous for saying, “I want to understand the mind of God… everything else is deatil.” The Thoughts of God must consume us, the Grace of God must control us, the Mercy of God must inform us, the Forgiveness of God must shape us. Our thoughts of God drives our relationship with God. Everything else is detail. But, God has thoughts toward us as well. God didn’t just plan our birth, but has a plan for our life. His all-knowing ever presence looks and sees value in us. His thoughts are precious to us and towards us… and isn’t this exactly what relationship is… what love is all about? When we love someone, their thoughts are precious to us and we have precious thoughts toward them. If your thoughts are only of what you receive, that’s called selfishness and relationships, families, churches, communities, and countries die at the hand of selfishness.

Verse 17 finishes - *How great is the sum of them!* How great is the sum of God’s providence, protection, and planning. How can we number the numberless? The uncountable ways He blesses our life? Flat tires can be blessings. Missed appointments can be blessings. Hardship and sickness can be a blessing. How often has God blessed us by what we thought was blocking us?

Verse 18 starts - *If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.* To try to count the blessings of God is as pointless as standing on the beach and numbering the grains of sand, as the wind blows and the sea advances and recedes. Is a single heartbeat a blessing? Is a single breath a blessing? Is a single green leaf producing oxygen a blessing? How blind we make ourselves to the numberless blessings, the greatest of these – relationship to Jesus and through Jesus. How ungrateful I find I am.

Verse 18 finishes *When I awake, I am still with You.* This has the idea of jerking awake at night and finding that God is still with me. Upon awakening, my thoughts are immediately of Him and His thoughts never leave me. As one of my favorite old hymns sings – His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Vanessa, God’s eye is on the sparrow. He sees and loves you. He is so glad to have relationship with you.

This week, let’s evaluate how precious God’s thoughts are to us. Let’s be overcome with His numberless blessings. Let’s be as Grace-giving to others as God has been to us. He neither sleeps nor slumbers… may our thoughts of Him occupy our days and blanket our nights.