

**“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session #81, Soli Deo Gloria – To God Alone  
Belongs Glory - “The Glory of God’s Thoughts”, prepared by Pastor Paul Rendall  
For the Adult Sunday School Class on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.**

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

The glory of God is seen in His thoughts towards us; thoughts which are many, thoughts which are great and deep, thoughts which are full of love, care, and consideration for every one of His people. These thoughts are, for us, not understood in direct revelation from Him, our God, but they are found in the written word of God, and we read them, and believe in them, we understand His thoughts toward us are very great.

**The Preacher’s Homiletic Commentary** (Joseph Exell, William Jones, George Barlow, W. Frank Scott, and others) says: “How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand.” Many of His thoughts are revealed, and we see them. Many others may be revealed, but we have not yet the capacity to perceive them. And many more may be revealed by Him in the future. His mind is infinite, ever active, ever productive, ever revealing. His thoughts are not only multitudinous in number, but profound in meaning. In our present state we have neither the time, the facilities, nor the capacity fully to number and comprehend the thoughts of God. But in the future, with quickened faculties, increased facilities, and everlasting existence, some of the great thoughts of God will probably be perceived in their completeness by us. “Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face,” &c. If one of God’s ideas is so precious as that of redemption is, how infinitely valuable must be the whole of His thoughts!”

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 6-16 – “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.” “But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, or have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’” “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.” “For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?” “Even so, no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.” “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” “These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” “But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.” “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” “But we have the mind of Christ.”

**John Gill says on verse 7** – “The Gospel lay hid in God, in the thoughts of His heart, in the deep things of His mind, the counsels of His will, and purposes of His grace; it was hid in Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge; it was hid under the types and shadows of the ceremonial law; and is hid in the Scriptures, which must be diligently searched

for it, as for hidden treasures. It was hid from angels, and from Adam, until revealed; it was in some measure hid from the Jews under the former dispensation, to whom it was made known; and in some sense from believers, under the present dispensation, who as yet know it but in part; and is entirely hid from natural men, even from the most wise and prudent among them. This epithet expresses the preciousness, secrecy, and also security of the Gospel; hidden things being commonly of value, and being kept secret, are also safe; hidden and secret wisdom has been always esteemed, both by Greeks and Jews: hence that saying (u) of the latter, "he that would be rich in learning of the law, והחכמה צפונה שהיא "and that wisdom which is hidden", in a hidden and secret place, should hide and secrete himself from the children of men."

Psalm 92: 5 – O LORD, how great are Your works! and Your thoughts are very deep.

Psalm 33: 13-15 – “The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.” “From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.”

Psalm 40: 4 – Blessed is that man that makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.” “Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done, and Your thoughts which towards us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Verse 16 – “Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let such as love Your salvation say continually, the Lord be magnified!” “But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me.”

Luke 11: 13 – “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”