The God who sees everything  
Proverbs 15:11

“Even the depths of death and destruction are known by the Lord. How much more does He know the human heart!”

Sometimes we forget that God sees and knows everything. What if God were blind and could not see what we do or know what we think? Would our conduct be different? Would we be more careless in how we live? Often what we believe about God has little practical effect on us. Many people forget God and live as if there were no God. We forget that He is always watching us and listening to us, that He remembers everything we do.

The first part of the verse reminds us that death and destruction are in full view of the Lord. Although death is mysterious to us, God knows all about it. If God knows the depths of death and destruction, surely He sees our hearts and knows all about us. We are here today and gone tomorrow (Psalm 90).

How does God know the heart? To what extent does He understand and know our heart? The Bible teaches that God knows the heart so well that He is said to “search” it. “Am I a God who is only in one place?” asks the Lord. “Do they think I cannot see what they are doing? Can anyone hide from me? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and the earth?” asks the Lord (Jeremiah 23:23-24).

God examines the deepest thoughts of hearts and minds (Jeremiah 11:20). We cannot deceive Him. He knows how much hypocrisy is in our hearts and how much truth there is. “Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.” (Proverbs 17:3) In Revelation 2:23 Jesus tells the church, “I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.”

God does not judge by outward appearances. He weighs our hearts and knows them (Proverbs 24:12). He knows whether we have grace in our hearts or if we are just pretending. He will judge all people according to what they have done. God said that His people in Jeremiah’s day were full of slander and pride. There was no purity in them so God rejected them (Jeremiah 6:27-30). People judge by outward appearances, but the Lord looks at a person’s heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

What is it that God sees in our hearts? God sees everything. He sees the lust and adultery, the hatred and unkindness. “The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards” (Jeremiah 17:9-10). We have never committed murder, but we have had murder in our hearts. We imagine evil things. God sees the heart with all its sin and rebellion. God knows everything about it.

The Samaritan woman in John 4 who met Jesus, went back to the village and told everyone, “Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Messiah?” (John 4:28-29). We may try to hide our sins from God, but He knows everything about us. The Word of God cuts deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are. Nothing in all creation can hide from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done (Hebrews 4:12-13). On that final day, He shall reward each person according to what they have done. And it will be seen how exact and careful, how personal was God’s knowledge of the heart of every person.

When does God see our hearts? He sees us everywhere and all the time. Perhaps no human eye sees us, but God sees us. We may be away from anyone who knows us. But God sees us.
We cannot hide ourselves anywhere where God will not see us. God sees us even when we think we are hidden. He looks from heaven and His eye sees through the darkness. God sees our hearts.

We may wear a mask and people think we are following God. But one day we will stand before God and all will be seen. Some people pretend to be going to heaven while they are on the road to destruction. They are wolves in sheep’s clothing. As Elijah challenged the people, “If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal is God, then follow him!” (1 Kings 18:21) But don’t serve Baal and then pretend to be serving God.

If God sees and knows everything, this should make us tremble with fear if we are living in sin. If we would remember that God is always watching us, would we still sin? God sees everything—His eye is never turned away or shut. Nothing is hidden from Him. God sees everything—will we disobey Him? God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He wants them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. “Turn! Turn from your wickedness!” God says (Ezekiel 33:11). Turn to Christ and live, and then His eye which now brings fear will bring comfort and joy. If we pray, He sees us. If we repent, He sees us. “While he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20) If we turn to God and believe in Christ, He will forgive us and give us new life.

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me…You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord….Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.” (Psalm 139)