



ZOOMING IN

By Ian Menzies

Only a few months ago I had never heard of Zoom. Now it seems just another part of life. Faces in boxes appear regularly like the Brady Bunch and smile back from screens during meetings or catch-ups from disparate locations. These small screen views provide glimpses of lives and operator skill levels as varied as the participants themselves. Awkward, upward looking views of nostrils and ceilings from tilted laptop screens prevail for some, while giddy motion from hand held devices mar others. Black silhouettes of those with their backs to windows or light sources still prevail. But often it is the background to the participants that proves fascinating to me. Bookshelves evoke professionalism. Art works hint at tastes. There's

chaotic clutter for some, curated tidiness for others. It is endlessly interesting to see who lives with white minimalism, in family cosiness or in grand style. Who has dogs that bark or children or partners that wander in and out of view. Zoom provides many visual clues to help get to know people better and gives a glimpse of aspects of their life that we may never have otherwise gained. Similarly, the Bible is full of references of the life that God would have us live. If we were to 'Zoom' onto our own lives from God's perspective, would we be content with what we saw? Would the glimpses of our 'background' be acceptable? Actively addressing such thoughts may be an ongoing challenge for us beyond these current 'Zoom times'.

Reflection:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Psalms 139: 13-16 ESV