

## The Meaning of God's Presence

### Introduction

- A. The attributes of God are those distinguishing characteristics which reveal to us what it means for God to be God. One of these is designated the omnipresence of God.
- B. The omnipresence of God has been explained in the statement: "God is everywhere without going there." This attribute indicates what it means for God to be infinite in relationship to space, things, and in particular - people.

### I. The Biblical Description of God's Omnipresence.

- A. Solomon declared God to be omnipresent when he built the temple.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, how much less this house that I have builded? (I Kings 8:27)

Observation: To understand that God is infinite (absolutely without any limit) will, lead us to Solomon's conclusion. The truth is that He cannot be more "with us" than He is!

- B. The Psalmist David was instructed by God's omnipresence.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me . . . . (Psalm 139:7-10)

Observation: David's conclusion to all of this was to praise God (V14) and to tell Him that such thoughts were precious to him (V17). To the spiritual Christian it is so - but to the non-Christian or wayward believer - this great truth must be painful.

- C. The Prophet Jeremiah was reminded that God was ever with him.

Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 23:23,24)

Observation: In this statement Jeremiah is taught that the Lord God understood the need of sinful Judah even more clearly than the prophet himself - nothing was escaping His attention. This must also have been a great comfort to Jeremiah. In the midst of a very difficult ministry - God was continually present with Him.

### II. The Biblical Explanation of God's Omnipresence.

- A. This meant encouragement for Moses in His difficult task.

And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee . . . . (Exodus 3:11,12)

Observation: Moses was given a job that no one could perform. His resource was the very person of God Himself. While this goes beyond omnipresence - it is all based on it. Is our situation today different from that of Moses? We must answer, "In no way - in regard to provision - only in the will of God."

B. This meant the constant presence of "help" for the Psalmist.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
(Psalm **14.6:1**)

Observation: God has given Himself to every believer and is ever present with him to be the "help" of refuge and strength. Perhaps the Psalmist was designating these two areas all of us need so much. Every form of protection would be found in "refuge<sup>1</sup>" and every form of ability would be found in "strength."

C. This means assurance and expectation for believers.

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)

Observation: This again is based on divine omnipresence. The text is a promise that when believer meet to do the will of God He is there to protect, guide, and supply whatever need that such a "gathering" may entail.

D. This means encouragement in regard to obedience.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Observation: In these verses every believer is given a commission. We are to obey individually and corporately. The key to all this is the realization that Jesus Christ is still carrying out His work through us. He is with us and works through us.

E. This means encouragement in regard to faith.

Let your conversation (daily life) be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have, for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee; So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrews 13:5,6)

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