

THEOLOGY PROPER (44)

(Incommunicable Attribute #6) - Omnipresence.

This is the attribute that means God is everywhere present. He is everywhere present at the same time. As we have already stated there is a connection between the attribute of immensity and the attribute of omnipresence, because both are related to space. However, there are also differences: 1) Immensity emphasizes God is unlimited in space, whereas omnipresence emphasizes that God is in all of space; 2) Immensity emphasizes the transcendence of God whereas omnipresence emphasizes the immanence of God. Omnipresence emphasizes that everything, at all times, is in the presence of God.

Omnipresence is difficult for the finite mind to grasp because ALL other beings, including angels, are restricted to one given place at one given time. As Chafer said: "When they are here they are not there Material things occupy some part of space, but never all of it." (Vol.1, p.219)

Omnipresence is an attribute that is Biblical and logical:

- 1) To be perfect, God must be everywhere present because if He weren't we could conceive of a God who was everywhere present. If we could conceive of a God who was everywhere present at the same time, then a being less this could not be a perfect being.
- 2) God's unlimited nature requires that He be everywhere present for if He were not everywhere present, He would be limited to the areas He would be present.
- 3) To have complete knowledge of everything means He must be everywhere present or else there be something He would not know.
- 4) To be the judge of every person, he must be everywhere to see all and know all or else His final judgment be limited to what He knew rather than everything He saw.

There are many passages that testify of this attribute:

- 1) Ps.139:7-8 – David clearly had a perspective of this attribute. Notice carefully verse 6.
The full understanding of this attribute is beyond the finite mind.
- 2) Prov.15:3 – God is able to see all things in "every place", including the evil and good.
- 3) Jer.23:24 – God makes the statement that He fills the heavens and the earth and there is no place man can go where God does not see Him.

4) Mt.28:20 - God is with His people always, even to the end of the age. The implication is that man could not go anywhere where God would not be,

5) Acts 17:27 - God is not far "each one", which means He is close to each one, which means He is omnipresent,

This attribute is very practical:

- 1) It should cause us to stand in awe of God more than any other being.
- 2) It should cause us to realize how limited we really are when compared to God.
- 3) It should cause us to be warned that God sees all we do.
- 4) It should cause us to be humbled for God saved us having seen all sin and evil we committed.
- 5) It should cause the unbeliever to realize God has seen everything and no one measures to Him.
- 6) It should cause the believer to be encouraged knowing God sees every trial we are facing.
- 7) It should serve as impetus for faithful service and sacrifice, knowing God sees all.

THEOLOGY PROPER (45)

(Incommunicable Attribute #7) - Omniscience.

This is the attribute that means God is unlimited in knowledge, or to state it another way, God is “All-knowing”. **What this actually means is that God knows all things past, present and future, plus He knows all things possible and all things actual.**

The idea of having all knowledge of everything is truly beyond the finite mind to be able to grasp. It is, as Chafer said, “Whatever omniscience is, only omniscience can know in the absolute cognition of it.” (Vol.1, p.192) Even though we cannot grasp omniscience completely, the Bible makes it clear that it is an attribute of God of profound implications:

- 1) I Sam.16:7 – God knows what is in the heart of every man.
- 2) I Sam.23:10-13 – God knows all future possibilities of what may and will happen.
- 3) I Chron.28:9 – God knows every person’s heart and mind, thoughts and imaginations.
- 4) II Chron.20:14-25 – God knows everything about tomorrow, including victories and defeats.
- 5) Job 31:4 – God knows every person’s life and every step a person takes in life.
- 6) Job 34:21 – God knows everything about every person.
- 7) Psalms 138:1-6 – God knows everything about ever one, even what one will actually say.
- 8) Psalms 147:5 – God is unlimited in His knowledge and understanding.
- 9) Is.42:9 – God has knowledge of and control of all things before they happen.
- 10) Is.46:8-11 – God knows and plans every beginning and end and brings it to pass.
- 11) Mt.11:21-23 – God actually knows not only what is but what could have been.
- 12) Acts 15:18 – God makes known things which are known to Him of old.
- 13) Heb.4:13 – God knows all and sees all about all created things.
- 14) I John 3:20 – God knows all things, including what is in a person’s heart.
- 15) Ps. 50:10-11 – God knows all about every single animal and bird.
- 16) Mt.10:30 – God has knowledge of even the very number of hairs on our head.

The Biblical evidence concerning God's Omniscience is overwhelming and clear. Even the full implications of these Biblical statements is beyond our full comprehension. The most gifted secular scholar of the first half of the first century was Seneca. During the reign of Nero, he became acknowledged as the most brilliant figure of his time. It is not known for sure whether he became a Christian, but he certainly had good insight into God’s attribute of omniscience. He wrote: "We ought always so to conduct ourselves as if we lived in public; we ought to think as if someone could see what is passing in our utmost breast; and there is One who does thus behold us. Of what avail is it, then, that any deed is concealed from man? Nothing can be hidden from God. He is present with our very souls, and penetrates our inmost thoughts, and, indeed, is never absent from us” (Ibid.,198) This attribute, is practical in many ways.

1. Omniscience should cause us to stand in of God.
2. Omniscience should cause us to realize how little we know in comparison to God.
3. Omniscience should warn that God knows all things a person has ever thought, said or done.
4. Omniscience should cause us to realize God always judge in truth.
5. Omniscience teaches God knows what has, what is and what will happen at all times
6. Omniscience teaches us God knows all things possible and will do the best thing possible.