
Sermon Notes

March 29, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Everywhere Present

Psalm 139:7-10, Jeremiah 23:23-24

Everywhere At Once

- ❖ There's no place in the physical universe where God is not present in the fullness of His being at all times
- ❖ There is nowhere in the spiritual world where God is not present
 - God is equally near to all parts of His universe
 - God is with you wherever you are

Fully Present

- ❖ We are limited by time and space, God is not!
 - God is not only able to be in two places at once, God is simultaneously present in every part of His universe
 - God is present everywhere with the fullness of who He is
 - sometimes we may be present physically yet "absent" mentally
- ❖ As a spiritual being, God has no spatial constraints
 - God does not dwell "in space"

- space exists in God
- illustration of a bucket submerged in the ocean

Always in God's Presence

- ❖ Psalm 139:7-8
 - if I go high, low, east or west God is there
 - David is not trying to run away from God
 - David takes comfort in the fact that the God who knows everything about him always has His eye on him
- ❖ God is in **HEAVEN**
 - Isaiah 57:15
 - God is transcendent = God is present in and ruling from the highest place
 - Ecclesiastes 5:2, Psalm 97:9, Psalm 123:1
 - from His throne in heaven, the Lord rules over the earth
 - Isaiah 6
 - Revelation 4:2
 - when hard times hit, our hearts can soar above our circumstances if we keep this truth in mind
- ❖ God is **HERE**
 - God is immanent = God is nearby and present with His people
 - Deuteronomy 4:39, Jeremiah 23:23-24, Isaiah 57:15

- God is in the heavens, but God is also right down here in the trenches with me!
 - God is with the burdened, bowed down, beaten down
 - even when we face our final enemy (death) we need fear no evil because *your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* (Ps. 23:3-4)
 - God promises to never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:20)
- ❖ God is in **HELL**
- *If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!* (Psalm 139:8)
 - Sheol = OT name for the place of the dead (Hades)
 - after Jesus' sacrifice and victory, Jesus leads the spirits of those who have died in faith believing in the promise of God's Messiah from Sheol to heaven
 - Revelation 14:10-11
 - a sobering picture of God Himself administering His divine wrath in hell
 - eternal punishment will take place *in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb*
 - BUT, 2 Thessalonians 1:9 says: *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence (face) of the Lord*
 - God will turn his face away from those in hell in the same way he turned His face away from Christ as Jesus hung on the cross
 - God the Father was fully present at the cross as Jesus hung there in agony

- it was the absence of His Father's gracious, loving look that caused Jesus to cry out in agony, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken me*

- ❖ For believers, the knowledge of God's omnipresence is a comfort, confidence, and tremendous encouragement
 - God is committed to His people
 - God is with us in every trial, trouble, testing, temptation, heartbreak and loss
 - God is omnipresent, Satan is not

Personal Reflection

1. God is "in the heavens" and God is "here". What comfort or confidence do you derive from holding onto **both** of these truths?
2. In what ways is God's omnipresence great news for believers and terrifying news for unbelievers?
3. Many Christians live in fear of Satan. How does a proper understanding of God's omniscience help overcome this fear?
4. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt particularly distant from God? How do the truths about God's omniscience help you to interpret or understand such experiences?
5. Meditate on Isaiah 57:15 and worship the One who lives both in a high and holy place AND with those who are contrite and lowly in spirit.