

## THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

Text: Jeremiah 23:23-24

INTRO: Today's lesson is titled, "The Omnipresence of God." We shall use two terms that most of us are probably familiar with, but which are not part of our everyday vocabulary. The word "omnipresent" means present everywhere at the same time. The Bible teaches, & we believe, that God is present everywhere at the same time. He is not limited by time or space.

The other not-so-common word that we will use is the word "paradox." A paradox is a statement that seems to contradict itself, or to conflict with "common sense," yet is none-the-less true.

### I. SOME PASSAGES THAT TEACH THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD.

JEREMIAH 23:23-24; PSALM 139:7-8;

### II. PARADOXICAL STATEMENTS SEEMING TO LIMIT GOD TO A CERTAIN LOCATION.

A. He is in heaven in a sense in which He is not on earth. Jesus taught His apostles to pray, "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name" (Matthew 6:9).

Stephen, in Acts 7:49-50 quotes Solomon, who alludes to the omnipresence of God, & yet seemingly locates Him at the same time.

B. He indwelt the tabernacle built by Moses & later the temple built by Solomon in a special sense. His presence was there in a sense in which it was not anywhere else on earth. He "dwelt" between the two cherubim on the ark of the covenant, 1 Sam. 4:4, etc.

C. God dwells within the Christian in a sense that He cannot be said to dwell in the world as a whole, 2 Cor. 6:16.

D. In such senses as this, man is sometimes said to "depart from God," Gen. 4:16, or have God depart from him, Judg. 16:20.

NOTE: These statements are in seeming contradiction to the doctrine of God's omnipresence, but they actually express additional truth. We may, to some degree "explain" them by showing that they involve God's fellowship, or that they involve God's choice to manifest Himself to man in some particular time or place, but most likely, all our explanations fall short of complete understanding.

Bill Collett illustrated this point with a story of a college professor who once asked a student to tell the class exactly what electricity is. The student stuttered, "I had it on the tip of my tongue, but I forgot it." The professor replied, "What a pity."

The only person in the world who understands exactly what electricity is, & he has forgotten!"

### III. THE HUMAN MIND CANNOT FULLY COMPREHEND AND/OR EXPLAIN THE COMPLETE NATURE OF DEITY.

A. The Triune Godhead, "Trinity." It is a simple matter to show by the Scriptures that the heavenly Father is God, Jesus is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.

It is also a simple matter to show that Jesus is not His own Father, that He and the Father are distinct Beings or Personalities. to explain--fully how these seemingly contradictory doctrines can all be true is not so easy & not so simple. BUT THEY ARE TRUE.

B. Many other areas exist where our finite minds cannot fully comprehend or explain all that we know to be true.

1. How can a brown cow eat green grass & produce red meat and white milk? And when we churn that white milk, how does it in turn produce yellow butter?

2. How can grains from the same ear of corn, when eaten and digested, produce hair on a cow, feathers on a duck & scales on a carp?

3. If these things in the material world are difficult for us to fully comprehend or explain, why should it be thought incredible that there are things in the spiritual realm that likewise baffle & startle us?

### IV. SOME PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD.

A. We cannot hide from God.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3).

Num. 32:23; Gen. 3:9.

B. We cannot move away from God. A little girl prayed, "Good-bye God. I'm moving to California." Jonah tried it, Jonah 1:1-4.

Move to another town. Go on vacation.

C. An awareness of the presence of God can help us overcome temptation.

Some would not drink in the presence of their parents, but will turn up their bottle & drink in God's presence. Some would not curse in the presence of the preacher, but will curse & swear & tell filthy jokes in the presence of God. I think these things are

true because those who should know better allow themselves to lose sight of the presence of God. None-the-less, God is always there to see & hear.

D. God is always near to help & bless us.

READ I PETER 3:10-15. Acts 17:27.

CONCLUSION: Let us seek to increase our awareness of the presence of God, that we may find help to overcome temptation in two ways--knowing God is there to see our sin--& knowing He is there to help us overcome temptation if we turn to Him in faith. He will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist, 1 Cor. 10:13.

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