

The Omnipresence of God

By Michael Huskey

“God’s center is everywhere, His circumference nowhere.” Thomas Watson¹

- Each of the attributes of God are present in each person of the Trinity.
 - The prefix omni means what? All
- God is everywhere present.
 - i. There is no place you can go to hide from God.
- God is a spirit being, simple in His essence and nothing can restrict Him.
 - i. A body cannot contain God.
 - ii. He is simple in His essence, not simple to understand but simple because He has no parts that make Him up.
 - iii. Nothing can restrict God from being in all places at once, where we are restricted by a body.
- He is omnipresent in the fullness of all that He is.
 - i. God isn’t weaker in Africa than He is in America. He isn’t less powerful on Mars than He is in China. His power is not spread thin.
 - ii. This isn’t something we can relate to. We say that we “have spread ourselves too thin.” We sometimes take on more than we have time to do, more than we can handle. It is popular to say, “I need a clone” or “there isn’t enough time in a day.”
 - a. God has never experienced this because He is omnipresent in the fullness of all that He is.

Psalm 139:7–10 *7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.*

- i. The Psalmist covers every direction in this verse making the point that there is nowhere that God is not present. There is nowhere that a person can flee from the presence of God.

¹ *A Puritan Gold Treasury*

- God is transcendent.
- What does transcendent mean?
 - ❖ God is beyond the range of merely physical human experience. He surpasses the ordinary. He is exceptional. His existence is apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe.
 - i. He is high in the heavens.
 - ii. He transcends what our minds can comprehend.

Revelation 4:2 *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.*

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

- i. God transcends His creation. He is exalted in the heights of heaven.
- Not only is God in the heights of heaven, but He is here with us. He is near.
 - i. This is a very comforting reality if you are a believer and a very frightening one if you are not.

Deism

- One of the things we need to combat is the idea of deism.
- What is deism?
 - ❖ Deism is the idea that God is far distant from His creation and largely uninvolved in the day-to-day affairs of our lives. That He sets back watching and waiting to see what happens next.
- What would be some results of this idea?
 - i. Some people blame COVID 19 on the devil as though it were outside of God's control. That is deism and a lack of understanding God's sovereignty.
 - a. People blame tornados, hurricanes, and earthquakes on Satan, but what do they do with Noah's flood?

- God's omnipresence and His sovereignty cannot be separated, just like all the rest of His attributes.

- i. Remember, God isn't made of His attributes, rather His attributes are radiated to us and seen clearly because of who He is.

Jeremiah 23:23 *"Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?"*

- If we are only focused on what is happening in our world or the things that we can see, it will bring great discouragement. But to fix our eyes vertically upon God and know that He is here with us is the greatest comfort we could ever know.

Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

Isaiah 41:10 *'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

Deuteronomy 31:6 *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."*

Matthew 28:19–20 *19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Hebrews 13:5 *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"*

- God is so incredible that He isn't only reigning in the heavens but in the trenches with us no matter where we are, if we belong to Him.
 - i. We are not something that God simply sees out of His peripheral vision. His eyes are fully fixed upon us. His hand fully guides and protects us.
 - ii. He is not distracted by greater saints or more important tasks. His attention is fully upon each of us because He is present with us in the fullness of who He is.

Psalms 23 *1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

- Who is the hero here? God.
 - i. Sometimes God makes us do things that we don't want to do.
 - ii. Sometimes God leads us to places that we do not want to go.
 - a. But He is there with us.
 - b. If we are led by Him, why should we fear?
- Where are places that God leads in which you may not wish to go?

Isaiah 57:15 *For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

- God is present in hell despite what some people teach; that hell is separation from God. On the contrary, He will be there.

- i. God inflicts His own wrath upon those who are in hell.

Revelation 14:10 *he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*

- Hell would be not as bad if those who are sent there never had to be in the presence of God's piercing gaze. The gaze of purity, righteousness, and holiness. But He is there, and that is no comfort whatsoever to those whom His wrath is poured out upon.
 - i. They spent their lives trying to run from God, but now there is no escaping Him. They are not left alone to suffer in peace; their suffering is met with the very one they hate.
 - a. Have you ever been around someone that you couldn't stand for a long period of time and couldn't wait until you could get away? These people cannot escape the one they hate, but for all of eternity will be punished by Him because of their refusal to bow to Him as God during life.

"Eternity is a sea without bottom and banks. After millions of years there is not one minute in eternity wasted; and the damned must be ever burning, but never consuming, always saying, but never dead, Rev. 9:6 'They shall seek death, but shall not find it. The fire of hell is such, as multitudes of tears will not quench it, length of time will not finish it; the vial of God's wrath will be always dropping upon a sinner. As long as God is eternal, he lives to be avenged upon the wicked. Oh eternity! Eternity! Who can fathom it? Mariners have their plummets to measure the depth of the sea; but what line or

plummet shall we use to fathom the depth of eternity? The breath of the Lord kindles the infernal lake, and where shall we have engines or buckets to quench that fire? Oh eternity! If all the body of the earth and sea were tuned to sand and all the air up to the starry heaven were nothing but sand, and a little bird should come every thousand years, and fetch away in her bill but the tenth part of a grain of all the heap of sand, what numberless years would be spent before that vast heap of sand would be fetched away! Yet, if at the end of all that time, the sinner might come out of hell, there would be some hope; but that word “Ever” breaks the heart. ‘The smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever.’ What a terror is this to the wicked, enough to put them into a cold sweat, to think, as long as God is eternal, he lives forever to be avenged upon them!” Thomas Watson ²

Psalm 139:7–8 *7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.*

- How do we hermeneutically balance **Revelation 14** and **Psalm 139:8** with **2 Thessalonians 1:9**?

2 Thessalonians 1:9 *These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,*

- ❖ The Greek word for *presence* here is *prosopon*, which means *face*. This is referring to the countenance of God.
 - i. When the Jewish people speak of the face of God they are always speaking about favor, blessing, comfort— what they long to see.

Numbers 6:24–26 *24 The LORD bless you, and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.’*

- ❖ The idea that **2 Thessalonians 1:9** presents is that the Lord will turn His face away, no longer extending grace and mercy to those present in hell.
- For the believer the omnipresence of God should be of great comfort and at times great conviction.
 - i. For those outside of Christ, who are in sin, this fact should be their greatest fear. A fear of substance, not based on what-ifs, but on reality.
- We cannot escape the Lord. We can be like Jonah and flee, but that would be a fool’s errand.

² Watson. *A Body of Divinity*. P. 62-63 First published in 1890. Reprinted 2015 version.

- i. God has given us the story of Jonah to understand that we cannot escape His decreed will.
 - a. Gods decreed will for our lives will be accomplished. His plan is fixed, and He is with us every second of every day no matter where we go.
- Satan is not omni-anything. He can only be in one place at one time.
 - i. Some people fear praying out loud because they don't want Satan to hear, even though that would be the best time for Satan to hear us. But understand that Satan probably doesn't even know your name.
 - a. The movie *War Room* was unnecessarily bad in its theology. The lady in the movie goes outside screaming at the devil, trying to bind Satan, but he most likely was not there to hear her.
 - b. Never speak to the devil, speak to the Maker of all things who is standing there waiting and ready.
- We are children of God. Do not ever fear Satan, fear God, for He truly is always there.
- Understanding the omnipresence of God will help you understand how Jesus was both truly God and truly man.
 - i. God did not come whirling out of the universe into the body of Christ at Jesus's incarnation.
 - a. Jesus took on an additional nature, that of man. He did this without changing being God, being omnipresent, being all that He is, for a second.

Questions

- What is deism and why is it an unbiblical view of God?
- How is God's omnipresence a comforting reality?
- How is God's omnipresence a terrifying reality?
- Is Satan omnipresent?
- Are you afraid to let Satan or his demons hear your prayers? Why or why not?

Notes

