

# Our Omnipresent God (Where is God?)

Roxborough Bible Chapel

October 7, 2018

# Outline

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# General - Characteristics of God

## Examples of Characteristics (Attributes) of God

Omniscient	Eternal	Loving	Gracious	Merciful
Omnipotent	Faithful	Infinite	Immutable	Sovereign
Omnipresent	Good	Wise	Trinity	Holy

### Why study characteristics of God?

- **Salvation** (Eternal Life = Knowing God)
  - John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- **To glorify God** (resulting in praise and worship to God, our Savior)
- **Because God wants us to know Him better**
  - Hosea 6:6 For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.
- **But realizing that knowing God fully is impossible (inexhaustible)**
  - Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
- **Knowing God better helps us to live appropriately (pleasing God)** since He wants us to be like Him – Therefore this can also be practical teaching!

# Introduction – God is a Spirit

- God can be omnipresent because He is a spirit
  - **John 4:24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
- **What does it mean that God is spirit?**
  - God the Father does not have a human body.
    - anthropomorphism - a way of describing God with anatomical or emotional terms so that humans can better understand Him. The use of anthropomorphism, a form of figurative language, does not imply that God has an actual body.
  - God the Father is invisible.
  - Even though God is spirit, He is also a living, personal being. As such, we can know Him personally.
  - Philosophically, God must be a spirit in order to be infinite.
    - Also, if God was limited to a physical body, He could not be omnipresent (in all places at once).

# Omnipresence Defined – Psalm 139:7

Psalm 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

- Nowhere is He not present
- John 4 (God is a Spirit)
- Omnipresence is not pantheism
- Where can I flee?
  - Adam and Eve
  - Cain
  - Jonah
- Types of God's presence
  - Universal or General
  - Special manifest presence (when believers meet together recognizing Christ as Lord and Savior)
    - Don't confuse the location of God (everywhere) with His relation to his people.
  - Relational presence (ex: indwelling of believers)

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- What about the Bible's reference to His presence in specific places?
  - Matthew 6:9 ...pray, Our Father in heaven...
  - I Kings 8:27-30 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: <sup>29</sup> that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.
  - Acts 17:24-28 <sup>24</sup> God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. <sup>25</sup> Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. <sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

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- We (both believers and unbelievers) live, move and exist in God's presence (whether or not we admit it or recognize it).
- We cannot take God out of anything
  - Schools
  - Courtrooms
  - Atheist meetings
  - Our conscience bears witness of God's presence
  - God is not more present in our Chapel building than when you pray alone at home.
- Challenge question: Is your communion with God restricted to a certain place and time? Or do you enjoy fellowship with Him as a way of life?
- If God is everywhere, is He in unbelievers?
  - The Bible does say the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, not just believers. But there is a different sense of personal relationship only for believers where God's Spirit indwells and fills in a special way. But even with believers it is a matter of degree and different than the fullness of God in Christ when He walked this earth. Colossians 2:9 says it was only "in Christ [where] all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily"

# Omnipresence Defined – Psalm 139:8

## Death Will Not Separate Us From God

Psalm 139:8 If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

- As an infinite being, He is bigger and beyond the universe – even the universe cannot contain Him.
- God is present in hell as a judge.
- God's *relational* presence is not there, but the presence of His wrath.
- Satan is not the ruler of hell. God is.
  - He created it especially to punish Satan and his angels.
- For believers, it is the special presence of God that we look forward to when we die
  - Thief on the cross
  - II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- There is no fleeing from God's presence and wrath in hell. Have you accepted Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, take warning:
  - Amos 9:1-4 <sup>1</sup>I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and He said: "Strike the doorposts, that the thresholds may shake, And break them on the heads of them all. I will slay the last of them with the sword. He who flees from them shall not get away, And he who escapes from them shall not be delivered. <sup>2</sup>"Though they dig into hell, From there My hand shall take them; Though they climb up to heaven, From there I will bring them down; <sup>3</sup>And though they hide themselves on top of Carmel, From there I will search and take them; Though they hide from My sight at the bottom of the sea, From there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them; <sup>4</sup>Though they go into captivity before their enemies, From there I will command the sword, And it shall slay them. I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good."

# Omnipresence Defined – Psalm 139:9-10

## Distance will Not Separate Us From God

Psalm 139:9 *If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*  
Psalm 139:10 *Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

- Taking the wings of the morning (dawn) in v. 9 probably means if he could fly like the sunlight – or in our language if I could travel with the speed of light, I could not get away from you.
- If you dwell in the remotest part of the sea you cannot escape God's presence.
- As a believer David is finding great comfort in the fact that God's hand will lead and hold onto him.
- When considering the ideas of speed, height, and depth not separating us from God, we should be reminded of the fact that we cannot be separated from the love of God.
  - Romans 8:38-39 <sup>38</sup>For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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- We can hold our loved one's hand to show our closeness to them.
  - Whether or not they hold our hand, we will always hold theirs.
- Some of the most memorable verses in scripture have to do with the attribute of God's omnipresence. The stability and lack of fear has to do with knowing God's omnipresence
  - Psalm 23:4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*
  - Psalm 16:8-9 <sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD always before me; Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved. <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.
  - Psalm 46:1-3 <sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; <sup>3</sup>*Though* its waters roar *and* be troubled, *Though* the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah
  - Psalm 118:6 The LORD *is* on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
  - Exodus 4:12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.
  - Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.
  - Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."
  - The peace of God and God of peace is only promised for those who rejoice in Him always and pray in everything to Him – the only way you can do this is by remembering that "The Lord is at hand {near}" and practicing conscious presence of God.
    - Philippians 4:4-6, <sup>9</sup> <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>9</sup>The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

# Omnipresence Defined – Psalm 139:11-12 (Darkness will not separate us from God)

Psalm 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;  
Psalm 139:12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

- Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.
- A lot of crime and sin happens in the dark. Why is that?
  - John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- Verses 11-12 could be referring to “dark times” or trials. We should be reminded that God is always with us and always there to help us.

# Conclusions – God’s Omnipresence

- How do we live in the light of God’s presence?  
How should these truths effect us?
- We live and speak differently when we know someone else is watching.
- We should praise God
  - Psalm 139: 14, 17-18 <sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. <sup>17</sup>How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.
- The appropriate response to learning about God – worship. Theology should lead to doxology.