

“You Are There”
(Psalm 139:7-10)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we considered that God knows everything.
 - a. He not only knows what has happened and what is yet to take place,
 - b. He knows what would happen if things were different.
 - c. He can't learn anything.
 - d. He can never be taken by surprise.
 - e. And so when He saves you –
 - (i) And promises to keep you safe forever –
 - (ii) He does so knowing fully everything you have done and will do.
 - (iii) And so your sin will not move Him to reject you.

2. He will also make sure in His infinite wisdom that everything –
 - a. All the difficult situations you have to face,
 - b. Even the sins you commit –
 - c. Will work together for your good (Rom. 8:28).

B. Preview.

1. Tonight, we see the psalmist doing something we should all do more often: meditating on God,
 - a. More specifically, on His presence.
 - (i) Where is He?
 - (ii) Is there any place I can go where He isn't?
 - (iii) Is it ever possible for me to go so far away as to be out of His reach?
 - (iv) Or away from His protection?

 - b. The answer is, no.
 - (i) If he went to heaven, God is there.
 - (ii) If he made his bed in Sheol – the grave, the bowels of the earth – God is there.
 - (iii) If he goes the furthest east towards the sunrise, or the furthest west, across the sea, the Lord is there.
 - (iv) He is everywhere.
 - (a) You can't escape His reach.
 - (b) He is always there to protect and guide.

 - (v) And what was true in David's day is still true today.
 - (vi) The Lord is near to you too.

2. This evening, let's look at two things:
 - a. That God is everywhere.

b. And why you should love Him more because He is.

II. Sermon.

A. First, let's consider that God is everywhere.

1. What does that mean? It's just another way of saying that God's presence is infinite.

a. He has no limits to any of His attributes.

(i) When we say that God is eternal, we mean He has no limits with regard to time.

(a) Time doesn't affect Him.

(b) He lives outside of time, as well as within the moment that exists for us.

(c) Peter tells us that to Him one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day (2 Pet. 3:8).

(ii) When we say that God is omnipotent,

(a) We mean there is no limit to His strength.

(b) There is nothing He can't do, if He wants to do it.

(iii) The fact that He is omniscient means there is no limit to His knowledge, as we saw last time.

b. So what does it mean that God is omnipresent, or everywhere?

(i) It means that there are no limits to His Being with regard to space.

(a) If you were to travel at the speed of light in any direction,

(b) It doesn't matter how many years you went,

(c) You would never reach the boundary of His Being.

(ii) God has no boundaries.

(a) There is no place where He is not.

(b) He is everywhere.

(c) As Jonathan Edwards once said, nothing can't exist anywhere –

(d) Something must necessarily be everywhere –

(e) Therefore, God is everywhere.

2. We can understand this better by also seeing what it doesn't mean.

a. It doesn't mean that God moves so fast that He can be everywhere at once.

(i) I remember hearing of a particle that moved so fast that it was everywhere in the universe at the same time.

(ii) This particle supposedly had three parts.

(iii) Some believed that it was God.

(iv) But it couldn't be God,

(a) First, because God isn't physical, He's spiritual.

(b) Second, a microscopic particle isn't infinite, even if it does move so fast that it's everywhere at once.

- (c) Third, if a particle really could move so fast as to be everywhere at once – if there was no space that was physically empty – then how could we move through it?
- (d) This was Calvin's objection to Luther's doctrine of the omnipresence of Christ's body and blood, of His humanity.
 - (1) Luther believed His human nature must be ubiquitous,
 - (A) So that He could be present at every celebration of the Lord's Supper,
 - (B) Wherever it was celebrated in the world,
 - (C) At the same time.
 - (2) Calvin reasoned,
 - (A) That if His human nature was everywhere at once,
 - (B) And the universe was filled with His body and blood,
 - (C) Then how can I go from where I'm sitting to the door?
 - (D) Or from my house to another?
 - (E) This is strange flesh and blood that fills the universe,
 - (F) Yet I'm free to move through it at will.
- (e) That's not what we mean when we say that God is everywhere.
 - (1) His Being is everywhere.
 - (2) But He is a spirit, and a spirit doesn't have flesh and bones (Luke 24:39) – it doesn't take up space.
 - (3) As Edwards pointed out, God is the space in which we live and move and have our being.

- b. Second, we don't mean that God's Being is infinitely stretched throughout the universe.
 - (i) He isn't like liquefied gas that fills the room as it expands, becoming less dense, or its molecules further and further apart.
 - (ii) He isn't diffused throughout the universe, as though part of Him is here and part of Him is there,
 - (iii) As though He were man-shaped with His head in heaven, but His feet on the earth.
 - (iv) He is present everywhere in the totality of His Being –
 - (v) All that is God is in every place at the same time.

B. Now what does this mean for you?

And why should you love Him more for the fact that He is everywhere?

- 1. First, it means that He is always near and never far away.
 - a. That's the comfort that David drew from this attribute.
 - (i) No matter where you might be in this world – as far east as you can go, or west –
 - (ii) No matter how high or how low in this universe – as far up as heaven, or as far down as Sheol –
 - (iii) No matter what your condition – either alive or dead –

- (iv) There is no place where God can't reach you, lay His hand on you, or guide you.
 - (v) His presence is everywhere.
- b. This means He sees what you're going through.
- (i) When you pray and pour out your heart to Him,
 - (ii) Because of the difficulties you're in,
 - (iii) When there are those who are threatening to hurt you
 - (iv) When you're in a dangerous situation,
 - (v) When you're sick,
 - (vi) When you're tempted,
 - (vii) When your faith is being tried,
 - (viii) When you're in need,
 - (ix) He sees what you're going through.
 - (x) He not only knows it from all eternity,
 - (xi) But He actually sees it,
 - (xii) He is present with you.
 - (xiii) Even as Jesus promised, to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).
2. But it means more than this – it means He is present to help, to fulfill His promises.
- a. When Solomon prayed at the dedicating of the Temple,
- (i) He asked that when God's people were in trouble
 - (ii) And they prayed towards that Temple,
 - (iii) That God would hear from heaven,
 - (iv) Answer their prayers,
 - (v) And deliver them.
 - (a) He represented God as in heaven, because this is how He represents Himself.
 - (b) He isn't saying that He isn't here.
 - (c) Solomon also said, "Heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built (1 Kings 8:27).
 - (d) What He was asking was that God would hear from His exalted position the humble prayer of His people.
 - (e) The psalmist writes, "Who is like the LORD our God, who is enthroned on high, who humbles Himself to behold *the things that are* in heaven and in the earth?" (113:5-6).
 - (f) He is highly exalted, but His Being fills the Creation and beyond.
 - (g) And that means He is near to fulfill His promises.
- b. He sees your need, what you're praying for.
- (i) And He is present to fulfill His promises.
 - (ii) He will bless and protect you.
 - (iii) He'll do abundantly beyond all you ask or think (Eph. 3:20).
 - (iv) He will do better than give you what you're asking for,
 - (iv) He'll give you what you really need.

3. His omnipresence also means He sees your sins.
 - a. A minister once said that when you commit a sin,
 - (i) It's like climbing up to heaven
 - (ii) And committing it before His holy throne.
 - b. Thankfully, it's not quite like that.
 - (i) He has chosen to reveal His presence in a different way in heaven,
 - (ii) And heaven is holier because of this.
 - (iii) If you or I were in heaven, without yet being made perfect,
 - (iv) God's presence may very well strike us down,
 - (v) As He also warned Moses when Moses wanted to see His glory, "You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!" (Ex. 33:20).
 - (vi) If God's being everywhere meant that He was on earth in the same way He is in heaven,
 - (vii) Then we'd all be dead.
 - c. But still, God is here,
 - (i) Seeing everything you do,
 - (ii) Watching what you're doing,
 - (iii) As well as why you're doing it.
 - (iv) Should you be sorry He is?
 - (v) Not if you hate sin.
 - d. This is one way His presence can help you to resist sin.
 - (i) Would you do some of the things you do if God was there?
 - (ii) He is, so be careful what you do.
 - (iii) King Henry VIII once came to hear Hugh Latimer preach.
 - (a) When Latimer saw him, he said to himself, "Latimer, Latimer, be careful what you say, the king is here."
 - (b) As he thought about it for a few moments, he said again to himself, "Latimer, Latimer, be careful what you say, the King of kings is here."
 - (c) God's presence helped him not to compromise the message for fear of the very unpredictable King Henry.
 - (iv) There was a book written years ago by a monk named, Brother Lawrence, called *Practicing the Presence of God*.
 - (a) This is the kind of thing He had in mind.
 - (b) When you are aware of God's presence with you throughout the day, it changes the way you live.
 - (c) It helps you when you're tempted to sin.
 - (d) Let's say, the Lord gave you a clear opportunity to witness:
 - (1) You could say to yourself,
 - (A) "I'm not ready,
 - (B) "I'm afraid of what they'll think of me,
 - (C) "I'm in a hurry,

- (D) “I don’t feel like it right now,
- (E) “I don’t want to deal with it,
- (F) “I’ll do it next time, etc.”

- (2) Or you could say,
 - (A) “The Lord has given me a clear opportunity to witness for Him.
 - (B) “He is here watching me to see what I’ll do with it.
 - (C) “I need to be faithful to the One who has been faithful to me and bring the best testimony I can.”

- (3) If you could actually see God standing there, waiting to see what you were going to do,
 - (A) Just think what a difference that would make.
 - (B) He is there, even though you can’t see Him.

- (iv) One thing that’s comforting to remember here is that
 - (a) Even when you fail, even when you sin,
 - (b) God already knew you would from all eternity –
 - (c) Just as clearly as though you already had committed it.
 - (d) Your sins and failure don’t change anything.
 - (e) Most importantly, they don’t change His relationship with you,
 - (f) As we saw last week.
 - (g) That doesn’t mean it doesn’t matter what you do.
 - (1) He not only knew it from all eternity,
 - (2) He also knew what He would do to help you overcome it.
 - (3) That’s not a bad thing, but good,
 - (4) Because it will help you grow in holiness.

- e. So the Lord’s infinite presence means,
 - (i) He will always be near you,
 - (ii) To watch over you,
 - (iii) To bless you by fulfilling His promises,
 - (iv) To protect, to provide and to discipline.
 - (v) His infinite love and His eternal purpose to save you make all of His attributes blessings to you.

- 4. Now, can you love a God like this?
 - a. Do you love Him?
 - b. Would you have Him to be any other way?
 - (i) Would you have Him to be only in heaven?
 - (ii) Would you prefer that He not see you?
 - (iii) Or that He not be near you?
 - (iv) That He not see what you’re doing?
 - (v) Or what you need?
 - (vi) That He not be near to fulfill His promises?
 - (vii) To protect, provide and discipline?

- c. Would you rather that He was only able to be with one of His children
 - (i) Or one group of His children at a time,
 - (ii) Rather than to be with all of us at the same time?
 - (iii) Then the Lord wouldn't be able to keep you safe.
 - (a) He might still send His angels to protect you,
 - (b) But they would not be able to do it as well as He could.
 - (c) He is the One who protects His angels.
 - (iv) The nearness of God is your good (Psalm 73:28).
 - (v) And you should love Him for it.

- d. Just a word in closing to those of you who haven't trusted Jesus.
 - (i) God might still protect you, but He isn't bound to.
 - (ii) He only makes these promises to those who know Him through His Son.
 - (iii) God may be near to you, but He might let your enemies hurt you.
 - (iv) He may meet your needs, but He may not.
 - (v) He may judge or punish you for the sins He sees you commit in this life, or He may not.
 - (vi) But He will certainly bring every one of them up on the Day He judges you.
 - (1) You don't know the day He will call you to account.
 - (2) The several people we know who have recently died – both young and old – show that you can't know the day or the hour of your own death.
 - (3) The only safe thing to do is to confess and turn from the sins He already knows you're committing,
 - (4) And to trust in His Son Jesus.
 - (5) If you do, then His nearness will be a blessing to you, and not a curse.
 - (6) May He give you His grace to trust in Him now. Amen.

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