

Sunday School

May 24, 2009

THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD

Acts 17:24

TEXT

“God that made the world and all things herein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.”

AIM

To show that God, alone, is with us whenever and wherever we live, whenever we move and still have our being because He is OMNIPRESENT.

POINT OF CONTACT

Whenever we talk about God in our modern culture, it will actually be too often a focus on the ABSENCE of GOD rather than the PRESENCE of God.

I think of the OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD even as I think of the National Basketball Association's Playoffs that are underway even as I write this lesson and reflect on the thousands multiplied thousands in persons, multiplied millions by means of television, radio, internet, etc. as well as the hundreds of news media people assigned from all over the world to cover events that will perish with the season while Bible Study at this very hour will very likely have vacant seats on either side of your seat.

People gather the whole family (especially the children), travel as a unit, park at a distance, pay a hefty price to park, walk sometimes for blocks, again purchase expensive tickets, sit in “assigned seats” (no demanding end seats) and then “purchase whatever they choose to eat or drink” in

order to see grown men in short pants run up and down the court with zipped up air inside of a piece of pig seeking to throw a ball through a hoop.

The participants in the game are oftentimes paid from \$3 million to \$24 million PER YEAR to repeat the same effort for four quarters.

Jesus says the essence of life is TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN (John 10:14).

“I know my sheep and My sheep know me.”

Yet, we are devoted to NON-RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIPS (meaning no return and

no relationship). We know the players by name, yet they have never heard of us.

“On the contrary God knows our downsitting and our uprising and our thoughts afar off” (Psalm 139:2, 3).

INTRODUCTION

One of the reasons why we know so little about God and talk even less about God is because the only thing we can know about God is what God reveals about Himself. That's why even now we have the Word of God open before our eyes so that we can carefully and closely understand the omniscience and omnipresence of God, making clear and plain that God is God and not man.

Let's get clear in our minds the essence of these two words "omnipresence" and "omniscience" which literally cannot be separated or understood apart from each other.

These two theological words simply mean that God is everywhere present in His universe and knows everything.

In our study today we could rush immediately to the multiplied volumes of theological books, essays and pamphlets and read the many contradictory articles and comments on the varied views, such as the Patistic View, reformation views and certainly the Modern View and discover the many debates and discussions of the OMNIPRESENCE and OMNIPOTENCE of God. Since I am not a scholarly theologian but only a country boy from Granger, Texas, I thought it best for us to study directly from the Divinely-inspired written Word of God (the Holy Bible) and the first thing I discovered is the fact that the

Bible (God's Book) does not mention OMNIPRESENCE by that word at all.

I found myself captivated, motivated and activated by:

- ❖ Divine Revelation
- ❖ Divine Intelligence
- ❖ Divine Order
- ❖ Divine Communication

From cover to cover, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation we discover that God is INESCAPABLE because He is everywhere, and I repeat, He knows everything.

Let's let the Word of God give us our insight on His omniscience and omnipresence.

- I. Suppose we, like Adam, seek to hide from God because we have sinned and come short of His glory and are now ashamed, fearful and seeking to deny God's presence.

Proverbs 15:3

I Peter 3:12

II Chronicles 16:9

Isaiah 43:2-3

- II. Suppose we, like Jonah, seek to not only hide from God but to actually run

away from God's presence. We all remember that Jonah was a prophet whom God called to preach on foreign soil in the City of Nineveh. Jonah tried to run away from God and was swallowed by a great fish.

We see the omniscience and omnipresence of God is in Jonah, Chapter 2, v. 2. Jonah is not aware of what's going on in NINEVEH because he is not there, but God is there and knows what's going on. When we sin, we seek to hide or deny.

Psalms 139:7

Psalm 139:8

Psalm 139:9

Deuteronomy 30:12-15

Jeremiah 23:24

I Kings 8:27

Psalm 23:3

Psalm 108:6

III. Suppose we want the omnipresence and omniscience of God to be to us a delight and not a dread. Favor and not fear. The creatures of God seek to negate the known God and “create” an unknown God, but for the people of God we settle the issue in only three short verses as to who God is: This focus is especially helpful to those who have an over emphasis on the physical and material.

Acts 17:24

Acts 17:25

Acts 17:26

Acts 17:27

CONCLUSION

If you want to see the Rockets in action, then go to the Toyota Center. If you want to see the Lakers, then go to the Staples Center in Los Angeles or watch television. However, if you want a relationship with the omniscient and omnipresent One, then focus on Acts 17:28.

*“For in him we live
and move
and have our being.”*

God says in our recent studies of the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 43, v.7:

*“Everyone who is called by
my name whom I created
for my glory whom I formed
and made.”*

*“We are made to glorify God and enjoy Him
forever” (Psalm 86:12).*

Jonah was seeking to run away from God and ran right into the GRACE OF GOD!

JOY!

