

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – April 13

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

CHAPTER 14

God's Omnipresence

Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Where can I flee from Your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, You are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there Your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast (Psalm 139:7-10).

“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” (Jeremiah 23:24).

The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.
Psalm 145:18 NASB

1a) **Is there anywhere God is not? What about Hell?**

1b) **What is the key difference between Heaven and Hell?**

2) The Old Testament phrase, “in the presence of God” literally means in the Hebrew, “before the face of God.” This difference in wording is startling! It seems to reflect the contrast between experiencing the presence of God here on Earth and that which we will see of God on the Judgment Day. **(Which would be more frightening: to tour of a nuclear power plant or watch a nuclear bomb explode?)** “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face” (1 Cor. 13:12).

“What could be more awesome than to stand in the presence of God—and live?” Sinclair Ferguson

3a) Speaking of Moses in the desert, Sinclair Ferguson writes, “Far from enjoying the sense of God’s presence, it is likely [Moses] was haunted by a sense of God’s absence.” **Do you ever feel this way?**

3b) ...yet, so real is God’s presence in our lives as Christians, we know Him as *Immanuel*. God’s presence in our lives is at the heart of His covenant with us. **How so?**

4) If God is omnipresent (everywhere present at all times), **then what was the significance of the Shekinah glory of God in the temple?** (Read 1 Kings 8:27.)

5a) John MacArthur writes, “Even today many who call themselves Christians try to limit God. They see Him as a figure confined to heaven, sitting on a brilliant throne way off in some celestial palace. They do not think of Him as being anywhere else.” As a result, many professing Christians are “functional deists.”

What do I mean by this?

5b) Because God is omnipresent, omnipotent, and absolutely sovereign, we must not think there is anything in Creation that is insignificant (His presence is felt everywhere in Nature). We may be annoyed by a pesky fly (I personally believe flies are annoying because they are attracted to our fallen state, so it’s our fault they are pesky!), but even a fly—sustained by the ever-present hands of our Lord Jesus Christ—“proclaims” countless wonderful things about the character of its Creator! **Give some examples of the attributes of God reflected in a fly.**

“The Word made all things and remained in His creation to uphold and sustain it and be at the same time a moral light enabling every man to distinguish good from evil. The universe operates as an orderly system, not by impersonal laws but by the creative voice of the immanent and universal Presence, the Logos.”

A.W. Tozer

6) In chapter 14, Pastor Tozer quotes Hildebert of Lavardin: “God is over all things, under all things; outside all; within but not enclosed; without but not excluded; above but not raised up; below but not depressed; wholly above, presiding; wholly beneath, sustaining; wholly within, filling.” **What do you think of this definition of God’s omnipresence?**

“Although God is wholly present throughout all things, He is yet distinct from all things....So although all things are permeated and sustained by God (Colossians 1:16-17; Acts 17:28), God is not all things.”

Sam Storms

“[God] is there as He is here and everywhere, not confined to tree or stone, but free in the universe, near to everything, next to everyone, and through Jesus Christ immediately accessible to every loving heart.”

A.W. Tozer

7a) The fact of God's omnipresence *convicts* and *comforts*. John MacArthur remarks: "When we sin—whether a sin of thought, word, or action—it is done in the presence of God." When we sin it is as if we are standing in broad daylight performing our perversion right in front of Jesus and millions of His holy angels!

Think about it for a minute—does this change your attitude about sin?

7b) **On the other hand, what sure comfort do you gain from a personal knowledge of Christ's omnipresence? (Please read Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 23; Psalm 46:7; Psalm 118:6-7; Hebrews 13:6; Matthew 28:19-20.)**

8) "A Christian may sometimes know what it is to suffer even in the conscious presence of God" writes Tozer. "Though 'always rejoicing,' Paul admitted that he was sometimes sorrowful, and for our sakes Christ experienced strong crying and tears though He never left the bosom of the Father (John 1:18)." **Thinking back to Christ's joy, even while suffering the Cross, how can we practice this same "focus" in the midst of the trials God sends our way?**

"The knowledge that we are never alone calms the troubled sea of our lives and speaks peace to our souls."
A.W. Tozer

You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand (Psalm 16:11 b).

...for the joy set before Him endured the cross... (Hebrews 12:2).

*"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5*

9) "When we realize this truth of God's presence with us," comments Sinclair Ferguson, we will be led into "new humility," a "fresh sense of security," and "undying gratitude." **Based on what we have learned about God's omnipresence, is this statement true?**

Quotes by Sinclair Ferguson taken from *A Heart for God*

Quotes by John MacArthur taken from *Our Awesome God*

Quotes by Sam Storms taken from www.enjoyinggodministries.com/

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