

The Omnipresence of God

Psalm 139:7-12

Pastor Thomas Lim

God cannot be known apart from His self-revelation. We can only know Him where He chooses to reveal Himself to us.

Why should we study the attributes of God?

We study it because it is natural. It is inherent in the creature to understand his Creator. God is our Creator, and we are His creation.

4 Reasons:

1. It grows our faith in God.

Our faith will grow as our vision of who God is becomes enlarged.

2. It pleases God.

Col 1:10 – A life that is honoring to God is one that is continually growing in the knowledge of God.

3. It guards us from having a wrong view of God.

A lack of a proper understanding of God's attributes leads to a wrong view of God, hence a life that fails to please Him.

4. It produces joy in our hearts.

As we grow in our understanding of who God is, so does our love and obedience towards Him.

God is not like anything we know (Isa 40:25). He has "communicable" attributes (shared with us) and "incommunicable" attributes (unique to Him alone). Omnipresence is an "incommunicable" attribute of God.

Understanding the Omnipresence of God

God is all-present, everywhere; all of Him, all at once. He is present everywhere all the time. Nothing escapes His attention. While we struggle to understand spiritual truths like God's omnipresence, we cannot limit Him to our own understanding (Re 1:8).

Exploring the text – Ps 139:7-12

There is nowhere that God's presence cannot reach (v7). He is present even in the depths (v8). David (author of the Psalm) realised that it was impossible to run so far away that he would be out of the reach of God (vv9-10). Everyone, as a creature made in God's image, has a personal relationship with God. This relationship is that of a Judge or a Father. Even the darkest of nights will not hide us

from God's presence (v11). Everything we do is done in the full presence of our holy, majestic and ever-present God (v12).

Important implications of God's omnipresence:

1) God is watching, whether we believe it or not – God keeps watch over everything; good and evil (Pr 15:3). Nothing can be hidden from Him (Ec 12:14) and one day, He will judge us (Mt 12:36). God observes everyone, and His eyes are upon us (Ps 11:4).

2) God is always present for those who believe – There is a difference between God's quantitative presence and His qualitative presence. As God's children, His presence abides in us (Ro 8:9). Sin was the reason why people could no longer enjoy fellowship with God. Through Jesus, our fellowship and relationship with God was restored (1 Jn 4:16). We will one day enjoy the eternal and glorious presence of God in its fullness (Re 21:3). God will never leave you nor forsake you (Heb 13:5b-6a)!

3) God's omnipresence is comforting – God's presence is comforting to His children, and He promises to be with them always (Isa 41:10, Mt 28:20). He is close to the broken-hearted and restores them (Ps 34:18). God comes even closer when we draw near to Him (Jas 4:8).

Applications:

1. I will learn to live my life in the light that God is watching me (Mt 6:4).

2. I will learn to trust in the abiding presence of God in every aspect of my life.