

J.J.

GOD'S OMNIPRESENCE
Psalm 139

INTRODUCTION :

Today, we're going to continue studying Psalm 139.

Last week : God's Omniscience...today it's God's omnipresence.

Remember : Only God is omniscient, omnipresent and sovereign.

***Quote** : When Scottish theologian John Baillie taught at Edinburgh University, he made it a practice to open his course on the doctrine of God with these words: "We must remember, in discussing God, that we cannot talk about Him without His hearing every word we say. We may be able to talk about others behind their backs, but God is everywhere, yes, even in this classroom. Therefore, in all our discussions we must be aware of His infinite presence, and talk about Him, as it were, before His face."

Psalm 139

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light become night around me,"

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Pray

***Outline :**

- I. GOD KNOWS
- II. GOD IS HERE.
- III. GOD IS IN CONTROL.

I. GOD KNOWS

God is omniscient. He knows everything.

II. GOD IS HERE.

Note : It's going to be a source of comfort for us to know that He is actually here.

Activity : Pause for a moment and think about it. GOD IS HERE because He is Omnipresent.

***Important :** It is good to know that God is with us when we are together.

Matthew 18: ²⁰For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

So the question is : So what if you are just here alone, does it mean Christ is not with you?

***BUT** before I answer that question, let me first explain to you the context of that statement by the Lord...

Matthew 18 : ¹⁵If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Context : The context is about discipline in the church and if we practice the correct process as how the Lord instructed, He is saying don't worry...I am with you with this. It's hard to do that but I am approving that decision.

***Look at the other usage of this phrase that Christ is with us.**

Matthew 28: ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In short : The Lord is saying, if the church is doing what it's supposed to do e.g. Discipling, Witnessing and etc then Jesus is with us, backing us up...giving us power... and etc. IT'S AN ASSURANCE... A SOURCE OF COMFORT.

That's why : Every activity in the church, I measure if it's according to our Lord's purpose. Will it bring people to Christ? Will it bring believers closer to Christ?

Now, let's go back to the original question : So does it mean if you are only one or you are not doing God's commission then Christ is not present?

*Let's look at other verses :

Background : Tower of Babel

Genesis 11: 5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

*Isaiah 55: 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.*

Question : So does this mean, that our Lord comes and goes? Then why is He called Omnipresent – which means He is present everywhere, everytime?

*Answer :

a.) In essence, God is always present.
OMNIPRESENCE

**Jeremiah 23: 24 Can anyone hide in secret places
so that I cannot see him?"
declares the LORD.
"Do not I fill heaven and earth?"
declares the LORD.*

b.) In certain situations, God is specially present. (positively or negatively)
MANIFEST PRESENCE

***God in the burning bush (positively)**

Exodus 3: 1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Writing on the wall (negatively)

Daniel 5: 1 King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his nobles and drank wine with them. 2 While Belshazzar was drinking his wine, he gave orders to bring in the gold and silver goblets that Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken from the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them. 3 So they brought in the gold goblets that had been taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem, and the king and

his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ As they drank the wine, they praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall, near the lampstand in the royal palace. The king watched the hand as it wrote. ⁶ His face turned pale and he was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way.

(Mene , Mene , Tekel , Parsin) (God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; TEKEL, you have been weighed ... and found wanting;" and "PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.)

***You want God's manifest presence? But here is what I like :**

Psalm 22: ³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. (NLT)

Psalm 22 : ³But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. (KJV)

Etyymology : inhabitest; enthroned (yashab) sit down, dwell..

***Another example :**

2 Timothy 4: ¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ²Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

In short : A Worship Service is a place where you know God is present. It's because we praise Him here and we preach about Him here.

Illustration : A lady called the pastor of a church where President of the U.S. attends, she asked, "Is the President going to attend?" The pastor answered, "He's not going to attend today but God is going to be here and I'm sure His presence has much more authority than the president."

c.) ***In the right relation, God is intimately present.**

INDWELLING PRESENCE

Illustration : **Have you talked with a person before whom you know is not listening to you even though he is there?** He is present essentially but relationally he is not there. (He is not relating to you)

Or have you seen a man so in love with a woman that he hears every word she says. He is there essentially and relationally.

But on the other hand, if a man is in love with a girl and when she enters a room, she doesn't even notice him...he is there essentially but relationally, he doesn't exist to her (so near and yet so far).

I remember before I don't exist in my wife's life even though I was struck by love at first sight. I maybe present physically (existentially) but since I have no relation with her, I am invisible to her.

Old Testament Example : Samson's long hair

Judges 14: ⁵Samson went down to Timnah together with his father and mother. As they approached the vineyards of Timnah, suddenly a young lion came roaring toward him. ⁶The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

(Remember the power of Samson came from him being a Nazarite, and the symbol of his dedicated relationship with God is his long hair. That's the reason why when they cut his hair, it was Samson signalling that the pleasures of this world is of more importance to him than his relationship with God – does he lost his power.)

Thus

20 Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

Choosing David

1 Samuel 16 : 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

God departing from Saul because Saul acted independently and did not trust Him (even consulted a medium)

14 Now the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

GOOD NEWS : If you have placed your faith in Jesus as your only Lord and only Saviour, then God is personally and permanently present in your life.

Colossians 1: ⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

John 14: ²³Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Etymology : mone "home" a staying...abiding...

*That's why : I LOVE THIS :

Philippians 4: ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

In short : As a Christian, we need not worry about anything because God is with us, in us...He is near.

Story : One of my enlightening moments is when I retired from the company in the Philippines and I became a full-time pastor and then I was just starting this business, I was attacked by anxiety. While kneeling before the Lord, by God's grace, He talked to me by saying, "Jerry, where is my Son? He's in you. Do you think I will abandon my Son? And if He is in you, then I will not abandon you?"

***That's why in Hebrews it says :**

Hebrews 13: 5Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

*"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you." 6So we say with confidence, (WHY?)
"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?"*

AND THIS IS THE ASSURANC OF DAVID, BECAUSE BY HIS GRACE, HE KNOWS HE HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, HE SAYS

*8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.*

Word picture : David uses the word "hand" guiding and holding

Note : You only hold the hand of people you have relationship or who allows you to hold their hand.

In short : Because David has a personal relationship with God, God is present personally in His life.

Next week : We will divide the text and talk about the characteristics of God's omnipresence

***But before we end, let me read this verse :**

*Isaiah 65: All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people,
who walk in ways not good,
pursuing their own imaginations-*

Dictionary : "obstinate" – stubborn, one who wants to follow his or her own opinion or way

Etymology : carar "rebellious, stubborn"

***That's why in**

Isaiah 55: 6 *Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.*

***And in**

James 4: 8 *Come near to God and he will come near to you.*

Are you a person who still thinks that you can go to heaven your way, (thinking by being good or religious or moral or charitable) Or are you a person who doesn't believe in Jesus Christ? God is talking to you right now...HE IS THE ONLY WAY.

Story : One time, I saw this video of Francis M. It's a video taken by one of his friends, documenting their recording. He was making a rap recording about the Lord Jesus (which never came out). It was one of those personal videos and then he began to talk to the camera and shared his faith...that he is attending his Bible study and that we are not saved by good works but by what Jesus did on the cross and he just wanted to do his part in spreading the message through the talents God gave him (one of the proof that you are saved is you want to share your faith). Let me share to you the quote that struck Marivic as he was making his plea at the camera for people to come to Christ...

Quote : "He'll greet you at the door everytime you knock." Francis M.

S.G.D.