

Sermon by Bob Brown on Sunday AM 9/6/09
"Attributes of God 3 - Omnipresence"

Omnipresence, is defined as "God is everywhere present."

If God is everywhere present then it must be understood that He is: everywhere All-Powerful, and everywhere has Full-Knowledge of all that happens in every place.

We must be very careful, however, in our understanding and wording of God's Omnipresence, to avoid the pantheistic idea that says "God is everything." At the same time we must uphold the biblical doctrine that He is everywhere present in all things. Pantheism emphasizes the omnipresent activity of God but denies His personality.

In trying to understand God, in our finite sense, we must realize the spiritual aspects of life and faith and not just rely on the philosophical and intellectual abilities we have been given. The apostle Paul brought this out in the letter he wrote to the church at Rome.

Romans 1:21-23 *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."*

Through the prophet Jeremiah the Lord spoke to the people and said:

Jeremiah 23:23-24 *"Am I only a God nearby, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill the heaven and the earth? declares the Lord."*

Sometime, when you are doing your devotions, take a couple of days and read through the Psalm 139 to see some of the attributes of God lived out before your very eyes.

Psalm 139: 1-6 Speaks of God Omniscience (All-Knowing) because God knows him through and through.

Psalm 139: 7-12 Speaks of the Omnipresence (Everywhere-Presence) of God As the Psalmist realizes he is never out of the sight of God, just like he is never out of the scope of God's Knowledge and Power.

Psalm 139:13-18 The Omnipotence (All Power) overwhelms him.

As we think of the ever present nearness of God in each of our lives we should be humbled and filled with the awe of God. Luke, the physician and follower of Jesus, wrote that God has put each one of us in the exact place, at the exact time that He wants us to be.

Acts 17:27-28 *"God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, We are his offspring."*

How close does God really come to us? People have been wondering this forever! Through the prophet Isaiah we read about God's desire and intent to be with us.

Isaiah 57:15 *"For this is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

When we are feeling a bit distanced from our "high and lofty One" because of lack of humility or because of a straying heart, we can take comfort in the fact that God is everywhere present (Omnipresent) and near to us.

The apostle Paul wrote in **Colossians 2:9,10** *"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."*

It is sin in our lives that causes us to remove ourselves from the presence of Almighty God. We can't live in His presence with sin prevailing in our lives. The devil will try to convince us that God has left us, and that Jesus does not control our lives through the Spirit. That's a lie, don't believe it!

The apostle Paul also wrote to the church at Rome, about how sin can have no power over the righteous believer, if we do not let sin control us.

Romans 8:9-11 *"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you".*

Finding new life through the resurrected Christ is an awesome and needed step in each one of our lives.

Re-finding new life through an ever-present God is essential for the life of every believer.

The apostle Paul gave a telling, yet gentle reminder to each of us of the promise of the ever-present love of God, through Jesus, as he wrote of the fateful night in the upper room, on the night that Jesus was arrested.