

August 28, 2011  
The Bridge Bible Fellowship  
L.G. Redekopp  
Text: Jer. 23:23-24

## **“Living in the Presence of Omnipresence”**

### **A. The Doctrine Examined**

*(Ps. 139:7 – 12; Isa. 66:1-2; Acts 17:24 – 28)*

### **B. The Doctrine Applied**

1. Natural man
  - living in the presence of His sovereignly-active and fearfully-benevolent omnipresence
  
2. Judged and condemned man
  - living in the presence of His oppressively-convicting and eternally-condemning omnipresence
  
3. Redeemed and reconciled man
  - living in the presence of His graciously-embracing and blessedly-resourceful omnipresence
  
4. Glorified man
  - living in the presence of His fully-revealed and abundantly-blessed omnipresence

*“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”*  
II Chron. 16:9

*“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”*  
Prov. 15:3

# The Omnipresent God

## The Scriptures affirm the fact of God's omnipresence

“ ‘Am I a God who is near,’ declares the LORD, ‘and not a God far off? Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him?’ declares the LORD. ‘Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?’ declares the LORD.”  
*Jer. 23:23-24.*

“Where can I go from Thy Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from  
Thy presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol,  
behold, Thou art there.  
If I take the wings of the dawn, if I  
dwell in the remotest part of the sea,  
even there Thy hand will lead me,  
and Thy right hand will lay  
hold of me.” *Ps. 139:7-10*

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Thee, how much less this house which I have built?”  
*1 Kings 8:27*

“Thus says the LORD, ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me. And where is a place that I may rest? For My hand made all these things, thus all these things came into being,’ declares the LORD.”  
*Isa. 66:1-2*

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ... though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, ...” *Acts 17:24-28*

## Defining God's Omnipresence

God is equally present in the transcendent fullness and undiminished perfection of His indivisible being in every place throughout all reality at every instant.

- The essence of God is infinite Personhood – so His presence is a personal presence
  - The essence of God is infinite, eternal Spirit – so His presence cannot be limited or circumscribed, either in space or in time.
  - The essence of God is indivisible – so wherever He is present, He must be present in the fullness of His being.
  - The essence of God is infinite perfection – so the glory of His character is present in His incomprehensible perfection everywhere at all times.
- ❖ He is omnipresent in His sovereignty – wherever His presence extends, He rules absolutely.
  - ❖ He is omnipresent in His immutable character – wherever His presence extends, He rules with changeless motivations, principles and purposes.
  - ❖ He is omnipresent in His omnipotence – wherever His presence extends, His unrestrained power is active in performing and enforcing His sovereign will.
  - ❖ He is omnipresent in His omniscience – wherever His presence extends, He knows fully and sees perfectly what has occurred, what is occurring, and what will occur.
  - ❖ He is omnipresent in His providence – wherever His presence extends, His virtuous (patient, merciful, gracious, loving) care is actively directing all things according to His own good pleasure toward the fulfillment of His glorious end.

Cautionary Note: We must be careful to note that God is, in His Being, separate from the cosmos (His creation). As the Self-Existent, Personal Creator He pre-existed creation. Hence, creation is not God; it cannot be God. He is not omnipresent as creation; rather, He is omnipresent everywhere in creation. This distinction is vital to avoiding the grievous error of pantheism – the belief that God is literally inherent to everything and, therefore, everything is God. He upholds all creation by the very power of His Being – by His omnipotent omnipresence – but He in His Being should never be identified as impersonal, and omnipresent in impersonal material things.

## Practical Implications of God's Omnipresence

- His holy omnipresence is immediate, so an awe-filled reverence should abound.
- His holy omnipresence is immediate, so fear and terror should pierce all who pursue evil.
- His omnipresence is an incentive and power for holy living continuously surrounds us.
- His omnipresence underlies His providential care and protection – His providence is always near, alert and active.
- His omnipresence underlies His provision of comfort and strength – His gracious provision are always near and active ... in every affliction, test, temptation, etc.
- His omnipresence underlies every communication of His mercy, wisdom, power, goodness grace, etc. – the Omnipresent God is always near and available in all His attributes ... it is impossible for Him to ever be distant.
- His omnipresence means that no man can hide from God – either in heaven, on earth, in Sheol-Hades, or in hell.

"The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms." *Deut. 33:27*

"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forever." *Ps. 125:2*

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."  
*Heb. 13:5 (NKJV)*

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are contrite in spirit." *Ps. 34:18*

"The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them." *Ps. 145:18-19*

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (the valley of deep darkness), I fear no evil, for Thou art with me." *Ps. 23:4*  
(Ponder the whole of *Ps. 23* from the perspective of His omnipresence)

"This is the fundamental thing, the most serious thing of all, that we are always in the presence of God." *D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

"[Omnipresence] is not a piece of God is here and another parcel there, but God in His whole essence and perfections; in His wisdom to guide us, His power to protect and support us, His mercy to pity us, His fullness to refresh us, and His goodness to relieve us. He is ready to sparkle out in this or that perfection, as the necessities of His people require, and His own wisdom directs for His own honor; so that being not far from us in an excellency of His nature, we can quickly have recourse to Him upon any emergency; so that if we are miserable, we have the presence of His goodness; if we want direction, we have the presence of His wisdom; if we are weak, we have the presence of His power, and should we not rejoice in it, as a man doth in the presence of a powerful, wealthy, and compassionate friend?"

*Stephen Charnock*