



The Things That Matter

Christian Life Assembly

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Objectives

- **Seek to hear from God, in His own words, how great He is.**
 - **Seek to know doctrine. (2nd Tim 4:3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.)**
 - **When we are done, it is my prayer that God will be further revealed (glorified) and exalted.**
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What is God Like?

- There are two types of atheists (if they exist)
 - philosophical and practical.
- The philosophical atheists have theorized that God does not exist.
- The practical atheists behave and order their lives as though God does not exist.





What is God Like?

- And then there are those who would say they do not know if there is a God, and even if one exists they are unsure if He can be known.
- The challenge for us is speak and act in ways that assert that there is a God, and that He can be known.
- John 17:3 And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.





What is God Like?

- In general, our world's view of God is too small... He is bigger than we think, and better than we know.
- We can get ourselves in trouble with our view of God by trying to make Him too much like things we know.
- When we assume that God is like man, we start down a very sure road to error.





What is God Like?

- The ignorance of God leads to idolatry because when people do not know the truth about God, they make Him up as they go.
- Idolatry ends with man bowing down to idols that he creates, but it begins simply by not knowing the truth about God.
- Psalm 50:21 When you did these things and I kept silent, *you thought I was exactly like you.*





What is God Like?

- **When there is no truth, men make gods that think like men, act like men, and respond like men.**
- **“The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion, and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. For this reason, the gravest question before the church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.”**

A.W. Tozer





What is God Like?

- God is so complex and incomprehensible that we have to frequently resort to simply stating what He is like.
- Many times the best we can do is negative statements – to say that God is holy is such a high thought that we mostly say, “God is without sin”.
- Why? Because we know so little about holiness that we have to rely on what it is not.





God is Omnipresent

“When Paul speaks of the ascended Christ as filling all things (Eph. 4:8), Christ’s availability everywhere in the fullness of his power is certainly part of the meaning that is being expressed. It is true to say that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are today omnipresent together, though the personal presence of the glorified Son is spiritual (through the Holy Spirit), not physical (in the body).” J. I. Packer





God is Omnipresent

“We shouldn’t think of God as being in space in the sense of being spread out like an invisible ether throughout space. He is not like an invisible gas that is everywhere present in space. This would be incorrect for several reasons. For one, it would mean that if the universe is finite, which is perfectly possible, then God would be finite. We do not want to say that because God is infinite. More seriously, if God is spread out throughout space, like an invisible ether, that means that he is not fully present everywhere.” William Lane Craig





God is Omnipresent

- **Job 34:21** “For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.”
- **Proverbs 15:3** “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”
- **Hebrews 4:13** “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”





God is Omnipresent

- 1 Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!
- Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."
- Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.





God is Omnipresent

- Jer 23:24 “Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the Lord.
- 1st Kings 8:27 “But will God really live on earth? Why, even the highest heavens cannot contain you. How much less this Temple I have built!”
- God is present and influential everywhere at all times and at the same time – He has no limits and he has no boundaries or end.





God is Omnipresent

- Men have frequently tried to contain God to a certain place, but that is in contradiction to the truth.
- In our day, some have wrongly assumed that God only lives in the church building and we have helped to reinforce this with the term “God’s house”.
- Acts 17:24 “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, 25 and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs.”





God is Omnipresent

- **An excellent illustration of God's omnipresence is the rays of the sun.**
 - **Sunshine is able to illuminate and be upon lots of surfaces all at once, yet it is never affected by the surfaces upon which it rests.**
 - **Sunshine can shine on acid and on poison, but never becomes acidic or poisonous – so it with God's presence.**
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God is Omnipresent

- So some might say, “if God is everywhere all the time, then why do we have scriptures like ...”
- Isa 55:6 Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near.
- Gen 11:5 But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building.
- James 4:8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you.





God is Omnipresent

- In all of those scriptures, it seems like God is not omnipresent because it sounds like he has to move and cover distance.
- I think the best answer to this question is to say that the essence of God is everywhere, all of the time, but not His relational presence. ***
- He has influence everywhere and He is accessible everywhere, but His presence is not always detectable.





God is Omnipresent

- Proverbs 15:29 *The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous.*
- Heb 1:3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. *When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.*
- He is everywhere, but He does not manifest His presence everywhere.





God is Omnipresent

- So what are the practical implications of God's omnipresence?
 - From a negative frame of reference we could say that His being present everywhere serves to govern my behaviors.
 - There is no where I can go where He is not present and aware of what is going on – when I take this seriously, I guard my actions.
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God is Omnipresent

- From a positive point of view I am never alone anywhere at anytime.
 - Jer 23:24 Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the Lord.
 - The presence of God fills the universe – the heavens and the earth.
 - Heb 13:5 “I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.”
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God is Omnipresent

“God is present in all places, but we should not think of Him as filling spaces, for He has no physical dimensions. It is as pure Spirit that He pervades all things in a relationship of immanence that we body-bound creatures cannot understand. One thing that is clear, however, is that He is present everywhere in the fullness of all of that He is, and all the powers that He has, and needy souls praying to Him anywhere in the world receive the same fullness of His undivided attention.” J.I. Packer





God is Omnipresent

- Psalm 139:7 I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! 8 If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. 9 If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, 10 even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. 11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
- Acts 17:27 “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.”





Questions

