

God is Ever-present

Text : **Psalm 139: 1-2**

S#1.

A. Welcome! Glad to see you back. We're just coming out of a dark time in history.

1. Mankind is facing an invisible enemy which has killed many and frightened the rest.
 - a. 2017-18 flu season there were 80, 000 deaths (*confirmed cases*)
 - b. 2019-20 flu season there have been 88, 000 cases including Covid-19.
2. Many are stoking irrational fears for warped political motives.
 - a. Many false stories are reported as truth for shock value.
 - b. Most deaths of the elderly are listed as due to C-19 even those of natural causes.
3. Sadly, many Christians have also been living in fear.
 - a. Regardless of the fear mongers, this attitude should not exist among Christians
 - b. The fruit of our faith should be peace :

Phil. 4: 6-7 – The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

S#2.

B. Years ago I read a story about a missionary named Herb Clingen.

S#3.

1. The Clingen family was working in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded.
2. Herb's family was imprisoned by the Japanese for more than two years.
3. While imprisoned at Los Banos Herb recorded many atrocities in his journal.
 - a. On one occasion he wrote of 140 prisoners being herded into a pit, where they were sprayed with gasoline and set ablaze.
 - b. As the fightin drew closer to the camp, the Japanese put barrels of gasoline in each barrack for the purpose of incinerating the prisoners to prevent our being rescued.
 - c. As the end grew near Herb wrote, "*The situation at present is one death per day the last 6 days. Our only hope is God. Never have I been so thrown upon the Lord. It won't be long now. The prayer of my heart is that I shall not fail Him.*"
4. The very day when they were scheduled to be executed Gen. MacArthur's forces entered the camp to liberate them. (*Herb had the attitude all Christians should share.*)

C. For a few moments let's look at the concept that "God is Ever-present."

S#4.

1. God is always present wherever you are, whatever your circumstances.
 - a. He is present all the time and at all times
 - b. He is in every place at the same time
 - c. Theologically this is refers to God as being "**Omnipresent.**"

2. Have you ever needed to be two places at the same time ?
 - a. This condition is common to parenthood.
 - b. We are creatures of time and space. We are limited to one time and one space.
 - c. There is no place where God is not.

* *As children when we were up to mischief we looked for dark or hidden places.*

Psalm 139: 1-12

S#5.

1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. **3** You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O Lord, You know it all. **5** You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.

S#6

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. **9** If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, **10** even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night," **12** Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.

3. God is with us in this assembly and with those who are confined at home.

Jer. 23: 23 – Am I a God who is near, declares the Lord, "And not a God far off? **24** "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.

S#7.

4. Though God is in every place, no place can contain Him. Remember **Solomon :**

I 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!

S#8.

D. Though God is always with us, we do not always feel His nearness.

1. We long for God when we are lonely or sad.
 - a. When we have experienced the loss of a loved one.
 - b. When we are suffering alone with pain, sickness, disappointment or rejection.
2. There are times when we feel the presence of God more strongly than others.
 - a. When we have had a near miss with calamity.
 - b. When we have a particularly meaningful time of devotion or worship.

There are at least 2 circumstance in which we need to feel the presence of the Lord.

I. We need to feel the sense of God's presence when we need strength to overcome temptation

S#9.

A. Imagine being tempted and receiving a call from God, "*I'll be there in 10 min.*"

* Ill. – **A large amount of cash is left unattended in the office.**

B. There are several examples in the scriptures :

1. **Gen 3** ... Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.
2. **Jonah 1: 3, 10** ... Jonah tried to flee from the presence of God.
3. **Gen. 39: 9** ... Joseph, "**How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?**"
4. Even today, God is aware of everything thing, we say or do.

- a. **Heb. 4: 12** – For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart **13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

S#10.

- b. When tempted we must ask ourselves,
"Am I comfortable with God knowing I am doing this?"

II. We need to feel the sense of God's presence when we need courage to face difficulty.

S#11.

A. Our God is a God who is near even in times of trouble.

1. We all face troubles ... especially at this time of ramped disease.
2. **Isa. 43: 1** – But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! **2** "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. **3** "For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.

S#12.

B. I know something about each one of you.

1. You get lonely. (*We've been unnaturally isolated lately.*)
2. You sometimes feel like no one understands you.
3. At these times and more we need to feel the presence of God.

Psa. 46: 1 – God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

S#13.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea.

C. As the fear mongers try to stir up feeling of apprehension and fear within us, our faith in the ever-present God can overcome.

1. **Psa. 23: 4** – Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. **S#14.**
2. Whatever may befall us during this pandemic we know God is with us.

CONCLUSION :

A. Whatever may befall us, let us hold fast to our faith.

* **AND REMEMBER** ... *we are the light God has sent to our neighbors*

B. None of us want this virus and the odds are we won't contract it.

1. We have lived through 18 corona viruses already. *This is #19.*
2. We'll use our common sense and good hygiene to avoid catching it.

C. But come what may, we will live by faith not by fear.

1. **Rom. 8: 18** – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **S#15.**
not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
2. **Rom. 8: 28** – And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Lesson Text :

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