

The Presence of God – Part 2

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:24-28

In the previous message, we looked at David commissioning his son, Solomon, as the next King. David's instruction in I Chronicles 28:1-9 was to *"... know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found of you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."* That God might cast off Solomon was not a statement about salvation. It was about accepting Solomon's works and blessing His Kingdom and future posterity (See notes of previous message – I Chronicles 28:1-9 cp. I Corinthians 9:24-27; 3:9-17).

For the sake of this message, we will consider the following points from I Chronicles 28:9:

- God is already present in the hearts and minds of men.
- God requires us to seek Him in a sincere and personal way.
- God offers a relationship of intimacy that allows us to experience the presence of God in a unique way.

These points are also found in Acts 17:24-28:

- God made the universe and is Lord over it all. He is everywhere and cannot be confined to temples or other man-made objects (Acts 17:24).
- God gives us life. We do not supply God with anything. He needs nothing from anyone (Acts 17:25-26).
- God would have us seek Him. At the same time God is always present – not far away (Acts 17:27).
- God is like an attentive Father who watches over His creation and sustains it (Acts 17:28).

This lesson cannot be a full theological treatment of the Omniscience and Omnipresence of God. Rather, it is hoped to make this subject more important and desirable. Though many people in the world are religious and talk about the subject of God, the thought of God's presence is not having the effect on people that it should (Psalm 14:1-3; 107:8). We all should be more God-conscious. Let's look at a few thoughts about the presence of God:

God is Present in the Whole Creation – Jeremiah 23:24; Psalm 113:1-6

God is Present in the Thoughts, Desires, Words, and Deeds of Every Person – Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Psalm 139:1-14; Proverbs 16:2; 20:27; Romans 2:14-15.

God is Present by Request – God offers an intimate and eternal relationship in which we can know God's presence like no other person in the world.

- God's Initiation and invitation / God's Call to Man – Isaiah 45:22; 55:6-13; Psalm 46:1-11; 145:17-19; Acts 17:30; Jeremiah 33:3.
- Man's Response / Man's Call to God – Psalm 116:12-13; Romans 10:9-13 cp. II Timothy 2:22; Psalm 139:23-24.
- Those who believe on Christ and follow Him may know God's presence in a powerful and unique way – John 14:1-6, 23; 17:13-23; Matthew 18:19-20; 28:20; Hebrews 4:15-16; James 4:6-10 cp. Psalm 100; Ephesians 3:14-21.

God's Future Presence – God is coming to judge all men. Everyone will see Him. Here He comes, ready or not! – Romans 2:16; Acts 17:30-31; Revelation 1:7; 20:11-15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Philippians 2:9-11.