

God is Omni-Present -- "When will you believe Me?"

-- 5/13/2011, Sun Valley, tp
-- from notes of wp

I. Israel did not believe God.

A. God was present with them in the cloud and in the fire.

-- Exodus 13:21

B. He gave them manna from heaven, water from the rock, quail to eat in order to show them His Presence with them.

C. He promised them repeatedly that He would give to them the land of Canaan.

D. But they did not believe Him. Numbers 14:11 "When will you believe Me?"

II. We must believe that God is Omnipresent.

A. Psalm 139:1, 7-12

B. 2 Chron 16:9; Prov 15:3 the eyes of the Lord are on the land, in every place...

C. Psalm 34:18 Lord is near the broken hearted;

-- Psalm 119:151 You are near O Lord; 145:18,

D. Acts 17:25 He gives to all life and breath and all things

-- Every morning as we arise, we must say, "God gives me life, God gives me breath."

-- We must look at our hands. Must meditate on the 1,000s of things that the hands can do and give thanks to God for that. Must meditate on our eyes, our ears, and our brains that lead the whole body and remind ourselves that God made it all.

E. Acts 17:27 "Although He is not far from anyone of us. Because in Him we live and move and have our very being."

1. Must not say, "I live and I move and exist because it is normal, it is natural." No,, a thousand times no. I live, I move, I exist because God give me life and breath.

2. It is not a question of God giving me life only when I was born, but that He give me life, He gives breath and "all things" every moment, every day, while I continue to life on this earth.

III. To be right with God is essential to being conscious of His presence at all times.

A. Christ always knew that the Father was with Him.

John 8:29, Christ said, "He is with Me; He has not left me alone, because I do always what pleases Him.

John 16:32 He said to the apostles, "Behold the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

B. Paul said that "the Lord was at my side, and gave me strength" when "everyone abandoned me" 2 Tim 4:16, 17

C. In the same way every brother and every sister must say, God is at my side.

D. Matthew 18:20 Jesus says " where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them."

E. But He is with us not only in the assembly but also as the apostles said, (Matt 28:20) "always"

IV. How does a sincere faith in the Omnipresence of God affect us?

A. With this attitude, we can bear trials, overcome temptations, be diligent in the study of the Scriptures, and be active in the work of teaching others.

B. With this attitude, we will be very careful to not sin in deed or in word or even in thought (God knows our thoughts as he knows our actions and words.)

C. With this attitude, we are going to remember always that "God is not mocked; everything that a man soweth that shall he also reap." Gal 6:7

D. Hebrews 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." He does not have to look at us from the distance, from heaven, because "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

E. We will be constant in prayer and in Bible study.

V. God was present in the world in the person of Christ.

A. But many did not believe Jesus.

-- John 8:46 "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" Imagine that! God was with them and they did not believe them.

B. There is much evidence to prove that Christ is God (Rom 9:5; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8; 2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 5:20)

1. John 1:18 "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

2. John 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not know me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

3. John 5:18 "but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

4. John 10:33 "thou, being a man, makest thyself God."

5. Matthew 8:26, 27 "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" No man can command the creation and it obey him. Only God!

C. For that reason, it is right for those of us who personally know and believe in Christ to believe what He tells them because He was and is Immanuel, God with us.

-- Likewise it is right for us to believe that Christ is God and to believe what He tells us.

VI. What must we believe?

A. The true plan of salvation.

1. Mark 16:16
2. Luke 13:3
3. Acts 8:36-38; Matt 10:32, 33
4. Acts 2:38, 47; Matt 16:18, Acts 20:28
5. This is not what the mockers call "baptismal regeneration" but rather obedience to the Gospel, 1 Peter 1:22; 4:17; 2 Thess 1:7-9 -- as illustrated by the cases of conversion in the book of Acts in chapters 2, 8, etc.
6. We must reject all the doctrines of demons such as the doctrine of original sin, salvation by faith only before and without obedience, or universal salvation.

B. Believe in eternal life and eternal punishment. Matthew 25:46

-- if you had faith as a grain of mustard seed that all the lost were bound for hell, we would do all that is possible to rescue them snatching them from the fire, Jude 23.

-- with this faith we would seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, Matthew 6:33 -- both in word and in deed.

Conclusion:

If in truth we believe in the omnipresence of God, that He is at our side, we will say, "I am crucified with Christ ... Gal 2:20 What would I do if Jesus were at my side?"