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Section: Doctrine of God

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q9. Where is God?**

God is everywhere. He is omnipresent.

* **Helpful definitions:**
1. Omnipresent (om-nuh-prez-uh-nt): God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being. Nothing in the universe exists outside the presence of God.
2. Anthropomorphic: Ascribing a human body, appearance, functions, or parts to something that is not human (namely God for our study time tonight).
3. Anthropopathic: Ascribing human feelings/passions to something that is not human (namely God for our time tonight).
4. Theophany (THēˈäfənē): A visible symbolic manifestation to humankind of God.
5. Christophany: An appearance or non-physical, visible, symbolic manifestation of Christ.
6. Didactic: Instructive; teaching a fact of truth in a clear, direct method.
* **God’s omnipresence explained**

One of the helpful ways to understand God’s omnipresence is to remember that God does not exist within spatial limitations.

God’s being exists everywhere, and everywhere God’s being exists, it exists completely.

* **Omnipresence requires right honoring of God**

**Jeremiah 23:24** “Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.”

**Jeremiah 23:16-24** Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

“Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.”

* **Omnipresence brings comfort**

**Psalm 139:7-10** (NASB) Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.

**Psalm 139:1-16** O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day,

for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts;

you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

God is nearer to you than you can comprehend, for He is sustaining every atom within you!

So, death may separate us from everything familiar, but it cannot separate us from God, and that for the believer is GREAT consolation!

For the unbeliever, it will be great torment and their due penalty.

* **Omnipresence: God cannot be contained**

**1 Kings 8:27** (NASB) “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!”

God’s omnipresence means that He cannot be restrained by space or spatial limitations.

* **Omnipresence and special manifestation**

**John 14:23** Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

God’s omnipresence is not a burden; it is the very thing that sustains us and gives life and breath.

**Q10. Can we see God?**

No. We cannot see God, but He always sees us. We will see Him when Jesus returns at His second coming to judge the world and to save the redeemed from sin and punishment.

* **No one has ever seen God**

**John 1:18** (HCSB) No one has ever seen God. The One and Only Son—the One who is at the Father’s side—He has revealed Him.

If we were to truly see the fullness of God’s glory, according to Scripture, we’d die. Scripture says He “dwells in unapproachable light” (**1 Timothy 6:16**). This means the fullness of His glory cannot be near fallen humans. In our fallen state, we “cannot bear the lustre of it” (as one theologian has put it).

**Exodus 33:17-23** And the LORD said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

**1 Timothy 1:17** To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

* **Theophany & Christophany**

**Genesis 32:22-32** The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then he said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.

* **There is a day coming, though, when we will see God in the incarnate Christ.**

**Acts 1:11** “... This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

**1 Thessalonians 4:16** (NASB) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

**John 14:1-11** “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.”

**Hebrews 1:1-3** Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

* **Seeing God in Christ is not second rate.**

**Colossians 2:8-9** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

**Philippians 1:21** For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.