

"Omnipresence"

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- Psalm 139: 7-10.

Introduction:- King David, poet, prophet and song writer of Israel, is contemplating the omnipresence of God, which he describes in most eloquent and impressive language. The presence of God everywhere, and always, is a fact upon which we will do well to meditate.

A devout priest once said, "A memory of the presence of God is the best preventive against sin. Choose that place to sin where God is not." A wise exhortation, which leaves no time or place for sin. The presence of those persons for whose intelligence and excellence of character we have a high regard has a restraining and elevating effect upon us. We are greatly influenced for good or evil by the company we keep. The thought that God is everywhere, that his eye is upon us, that His ears hear every word we utter, that no thought or imagination is hidden from Him, ought to deliver us out of temptation, lift us high above the realm of wilful sin, and create in us an intense "hungering and thirsting after righteousness".

I.

Forgetfulness of God, His presence, his laws for our guidance and protection, is sure to lead to sin of every kind. If men would keep two of the commandments of Holy Writ, they could never forget the divine presence. One is the strict observance of the Sabbath, the other is the careful paying of the tithe. To keep the Sabbath with devout reverence, and to pay the tithe with careful honesty, is to make forgetfulness of God impossible; if, added to this are daily seasons of prayer, one is not likely to forget God or to wander away from Him. It would make the keeping of all the commandments a part of a peaceful and useful life.

Rev. Charles Finney was one of the greatest evangelists, one of the most fruitful evangelists this country has produced. He would go into a city

or community and preach to the people about God, his presence, his holiness, the justness of his laws, his right to rule among men, the graciousness of his mercy, the severity of his judgments upon those who refused his offer of salvation. He would present, and urge these great Bible truths upon the people until they would become conscious of his presence. They would feel that God was in their midst. Their sins would become exceedingly sinful, and they would cry out for mercy. Great revivals of religion would break out, deepen, spread and abide.

It seems to me that the times in which we are living call for such a ministry and such a message. Multitudes of our people, both within and outside of any church, have forgotten God; they neither think of, reverence nor love Him. His laws are violated with utter indifference; his mercies are neglected with no thought of the fearful consequences.

II.

The results of this state of things are seen on every hand. Family religion is on the wane, marriage vows are no longer sacred with multitudes of our people. Youth, undisciplined, has become criminal, and in thousands of cases, blasphemous. Many great centers of learning have become centers of atheism, and the breeding of all sorts of views and teachings not only antagonistic to the church, but to our constitution and democratic form of government; worst of all, there has crept into thousands of pulpits of the nation a modernistic skepticism which questions and contradicts every fundamental doctrine of evangelical Christianity. "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in his thoughts." Psalm 10: 4.

The country is flooded with a literature that is intellectual and spiritual poison. The entertainments of the people are vulgar and indecent; brutal prize fights draw the cheering multitudes, Sabbath desecration is all about us. Distillers of intoxicants enlarge their plants, and millions of young people are becoming drunkards, both old and young; male and female. What shall the attitude and the answer

of the faithful be? Shall it be indifference, or discouraged and saddened silence?

"Where is the God of Elijah? He still exists. He is in our midst. If we cleanse our ways, hands and hearts, and place upon the altar our all of consecration, He will answer by fire in a way to confuse and to confound the enemies of truth and righteousness.

The times and conditions in which we are living call for a ministry filled with the Spirit; a message that will bring upon the people a consciousness of the presence of God, his mercies to the penitent, and his fearful judgments upon those who violate his laws and reject his mercies. The people must be awakened to the fact that God is here in the midst of us, and that his mercies must be sought, his name revered, his laws obeyed, or in the wreckage and ruin of all that is good and beautiful in our nation are certain.

Our assault must be made upon Heaven, upon our knees; it must be persistent cry of distress. We must have another pentecost of cleansing and empowering. We must have displays of God's power among men that will sweep away the combined powers of wickedness, or chaos awaits us.

Finally, we are immortal beings in a boundless universe, with eternity stretching out before us. We can never get away from God. If we ascend into heaven his glory there will be our eternal joy; if we descend into hell his presence there will be our torment. If we are true to Him here, and the winds of adversity drive us into the uttermost parts of the seas, his hands of mercy and power will guide and hold us there.

Repeat the text.