

The Greatness of Our God

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

“Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.” (Jeremiah 23:23, 24)

THE above wonderful TRUTH is presented to remind us of God’s knowledge and appraisal of false prophets. In the context we have a most revealing picture of them. First of all, they proclaim a false message. They declare peace when God has promised a demonstration of His wrath. “They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said. Ye shall have peace: and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you” (Jeremiah 23:17).

It is interesting how so many popular preachers of our day almost completely bypass the wrath of God in judgment. Such TRUTH does not swell mailing lists and attract support. Where is today’s biblical message of God’s wrath upon unbelievers and sinners? The honest presentation of the gospel contains both. “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him SHOULD NOT PERISH, but HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE*” (John 3:16). “*He that believeth on the Son hath EVERLASTING LIFE: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH ON HIM*” (John 3:36).

The message of the true prophet is declared in Jeremiah 23:19, 20: “Behold a whirlwind of the Lord is gone forth in Fury, even a grievous whirlwind; it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.”

The false prophet bypasses God’s demand of repentance. The results of God’s power demonstrated through the preaching of the Word means a separation from sin produced by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Here is God’s conclusion about false prophets: “*I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings*” (Jeremiah 23:21, 22).

The careless, ignorant, blind and sinful false prophets conclude that they can deceive God, thus the reason for their continuance and large following. Read again the text above! There is no hiding place from God. He sees and knows!

“I Fill Heaven and Earth”

There is no distance in His presence. He fills both far and near. His presence is not confined or measured. He fills every corner of heaven and earth. He is just as much present here as there. He is as much present on highway 195 as in a church building. His presence includes His essence. All of His attributes are in operation wherever He is and that is everywhere! There is nothing remote or at a distance from Him. If there is the distance with Him, then He lacks the present. No space is deprived of God. “*For in him (God) we live, and move, and have our being: as certain also of your own poets have said. For we are also his offspring*” (Acts 17:28). We can never get away from Him. Who wants to? (John 3:19-21)

As an eternal being, God has no beginning or end. There is no increase or diminishing in his immutability. In His omnipresence there are no bounds or limitations. “*But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee: how much less this house that I have built!*” (1 Kings 8:27).

“*Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the coasts as a very little thing*” (Isaiah 40:12, 15). “*Thus saith the Lord: The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?*” (Isaiah 66:1).

“*By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spoke, and it was done: he commanded, and it stood fast*” (Psalm 33:6, 9). “*Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised: and his greatness is unsearchable*” (Psalm 145:3).

The most thrilling spot of His presence is down under my fifth rib a bit to the left. He lives within the heart and life of all believers. (Have your read my free

printed radio message, “Who Has Received the Holy Spirit?”)

The idolaters do not believe this fact. Elijah told the prophets of Baal to cry louder and suggested their god might have gone on a journey. They did as he suggested for their god was a far off. Some think God is only in heaven, so they look and pray upward and build a high tower over their church building. If God is in a building, we had better decorate it nicely. If we come only into His presence in a worship service, we had better put a robe on the pastor and light some candles. There is no place without God. No one place can compass or contain Him. All life comes from God and must be sustained by Him. *“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ” (I John 1:3)*. Wherever life is, God must be there to maintain it. *“Thy righteousness is like the great mountains: thy judgments are a great deep. O Lord, thou preservest man and beast” (Psalm 36:6)*.

If God is of infinite duration, He must possess infinite presence. If there are any limitations of time and space on His part, then He is not infinite. No walls can hide Him. In His presence we have all comfort needed~ He is a shield against all temptations. All power to perform comes from Him! It is so easy to pretend God is present everywhere and yet live as if he were present nowhere. Why are we anxious if He fills heaven and earth?

Satan’s Great Lie

The first TRUTH that Satan robs us of is God’s all-knowing and His omnipresence. Remember Adam’s response to God’s inquiry as to location? *“I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked: and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10)*. Adam heard God’s voice, but his mind lost the consciousness of His presence and knowledge. Imagine his conclusion that he could hide from His knowledge and justice.

Here is the explanation for adultery, fornication, and murder. The enemy closes one’s mind and heart to God’s knowledge, presence, and judgment of their sin. The tragic consequences will still follow them from a God who has promised both blessing and judgment. He hears, sees and knows all things. His records of the works of sinners will be accurate at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:12, 13). The same will be

true of Christians at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

God reveals Himself only to those who are honest about His infinite knowledge of their personal condition. We confess that which God is already fully aware of. Have you repented of your sin? Have you named them to God with sorrow of heart? Will you believe that only the death of Jesus Christ will satisfy the righteous demands of a holy God? We add nothing to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for our eternal behalf. We depend upon His work. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord” (Romans 6:23)*. *“And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (Acts 16:31)*. At the cross of Jesus Christ, you will not only meet a Savior from sin, but also the righteousness and holiness God demands from all who become His children. The spotless Son of God took your sin upon Himself, suffered in your place, and rose from the dead, signifying a sacrifice that was acceptable to his Father. Will you believe Him to die for you personally? Will you believe the declaration of God concerning the provision of His Son? *“For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (I Timothy 2:5, 6)*. His resurrection power transforms you into a saint, a holy person in possession of the life of the resurrected Christ. This happens when you are born-again as found in John chapter three. God demands that we repent or perish (Luke 13:3). He commands that we believe in His Son or the wrath of God abides on us now and for eternity (John 3:36). Christ is the way to heaven (John 14:6). When you get there, look me up, for I will be there!

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