

In The Presence of God

Ac.10:33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God

1 Co.1:29 ...that no flesh should glory in His presence

1 Tim.5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality

– Also **6:13**; **2 Tim.2:14**; **4:1**

We are now in presence of God

- He sees ...
- He hears ...
- He knows our words ...
- He knows our thoughts ...
- He knows our actions

Gn.3:8 – hide from Him?

I. Illustrations of His Presence

1. Jacob, Gn.28:16, amazed...
2. Moses, Ex.33:14-15, assurance...
3. Gideon, Jg.6, victory
4. Job 38-42, God defended him
5. Isaiah 6, unclean...cleansed
6. Jonah 1:10, fleeing from His presence
7. Daniel 1... 2... 6
8. Peter, Lk.5:8, self-exam
9. Lord's audiences, Lk.13:26
10. Paul, his conversion and others, Ac.18
11. 2 Th.1:9

I. Illustrations of His Presence

II. Importance of His Presence

God sees us

- Ps.139:7, run, but not hide
- Ro.2:16, we just thought our secrets were secret

God hears us

- Nu.11:1
 - Rescued from Egyptian slavery
 - On road to land of milk and honey
 - They complain . . . God heard

God speaks to us

- Ps.19
- Nu.24:13
 - Cliches sound good, but do not substitute for right actions

God knows us

- Jn.2:24-25
 - He knows us better than we know ourselves
 - Ps.50:21, These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes

God wants us to win

- Ac.7, Stephen's death
 - Jesus knows
 - Jesus cares
 - Jesus encourages
 - Jesus accepts him
 - What else matters?

I. Illustrations of His Presence

II. Importance of His Presence

III. Impact of His Presence

1. Discipline, Mt.18:...15-20

1-14: previous context: our sins against others

15: now turns to sins of others against us.

Lv.19:17-18

a. Explains how principle of 10-14 works

b. **You**: a brother has sinned; you must act

c. **Alone**: avoid publicity

d. **Aim**: gain (win) your brother

e. **Involve others** only when private attempts have failed (v.16)

f. **Church** (local congregation), 17

g. **Sinner's refusal** to repent . . . fatal

1. Discipline, Mt.18:...15-20

1-14: previous context: our sins against others

15: now turns to sins of others against us.

18: future perfect tense (cf. NASB):

- Shall have been bound
- Shall have been loosed

Church carries out heaven's decision; not
heaven ratifying church's decisions.

Heavenly decision preceded church action.

1. Discipline, Mt.18:...15-20

1-14: previous context: our sins against others

15: now turns to sins of others against us.

18: future perfect tense (cf. NASB)

19: Father's participation: perfect harmony
between heaven / earth

20: "I am there in the midst of them..."

- In smallest possible company, offering greatest possible confession, reaping sweetest possible communion.
- He knows ... cares ... commands ... judges. Rv.2:4

2. Worship, Mt.26:26-30

Ps.100:2. (1 Sm.3:9)

Ac.2:42

Ac.10:33

1 Co.11:17-20, come together...for worse...
divisions...not to eat Lord's supper

- They chewed / swallowed, but lost all connection with the Lord
- 33-34...lest you come together for judgment
 - He sees, He knows, He judges

3. Christians, Mt.28:20

“I am with you always...”

Ac.18:9-10

2 Co.2:10, Now whom you forgive anyth., I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ

- 1:23 – began section invoking God as Witness; concludes by invoking Christ as witness of his genuine forgiveness
- **There IS an all-seeing Eye**

4. Death, Ps.23:4

“I walk through the valley”

2 Co.4:14, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you

2 Th.1:9, These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power