

“You Are There”

Taken from Psalm 139:7-12

by Pastor Donat Boucher

Word of Life Community Church

Fall River, Massachusetts

Our Heavenly Father, we do thank You, Lord. Your own proclamation, Lord God, You are our Savior. You will always be there through thick and thin. You will guide us, lead us, protect us, preserve us, and even pacify us when we need it, Lord. God we thank You that we can operate in Your strength, through Your mercy, by Your grace. You're an awesome God. Lord, we come here for one reason, we wish to see Jesus. We ask that Your Holy Spirit, whose ministry is to reveal Christ, would do so into our hearts, our minds, our eyes, our ears; that we would receive the full measure that You, Lord God, have set aside for each one of us individually, as well as corporately. That You would be our teacher, our guide and revealer of truth. Lord, we know unless You're delivering and we're receiving it in the Spirit, it means nothing. It's seed by the wayside; it will never bear fruit. Maybe I haven't said this since the last service but, I love Jesus. He's so much more than a Savior, He's the holy One, He's the Lamb. He'll come back as the Lion. Lord thank You for revealing Christ to our hearts, to our minds, to our lives. Thank You for giving us a hunger for more. Thank You Lord, for Your Holy Spirit, who is the true teacher. Thank You that You use the foolishness of preaching, the weak vessels. You weren't looking for *mighty* Lord, You were looking for *willing*. I pray You would go before me, that I would hide behind Christ. That I would not get in the way of the Word that You desire to bring forth. So, Lord, we pray that we could enter into all that You have for us here tonight. That we would leave nothing behind, no regrets. Help us to receive all that You have, and we ask this in Christ's Name, Amen.

You can open your bibles to Psalm 139, it's a precious book in the Psalms. It has twenty-four verses; it's broken up six, twelve, eighteen and twenty four. It's split perfectly into groups of six. Last week we looked at the omniscience of Almighty God. He is all knowing, there is nothing that He does not know. He knows it all. He knows our thoughts before we think them, our words before we speak them, He knows everything there is about us. Matthew 10:30 says He knows every hair upon our head, He knows everything about us. The beautiful thing is we know more than anybody else about us because we get all that hidden stuff that we don't want to tell anybody about, but it's all in the light with the Lord. It's all in the light! Yet so many struggle with the fact that if God knows everything... then He knows everything. That could bring paranoia to people and they try to hide from the Lord as though they can do something in secret. We can't! Here's the key though, He loves us anyway.

Listen, the Lord doesn't have high expectations of you. You may have a high

expectation of you, but I can tell you this; the Lord looks at me and he says, yeah, I don't have a high expectation for him. I have a call for his life. I'm going to open the doors for him, I'm going to give him a hunger in his heart to know Me. Through that, I'm going to bring him to the place where I desire him to be, which is totally outside of himself. That thing that he struggles with the most. I'm going to make that a gift. When that gift, out of the weakness, becomes his strength, he is going to glorify Me. Only God can do that! God gave me one desire, and it's never changed, to know Him.

Philippians 3:10. Paul, after walking with the Lord some thirty to thirty-five years, writes down this letter to Phillippi. It's a thankful letter. He's thanking them for a gift that they had given, and he says, "I just want to know Him." Paul, you don't know Him? Don't you know Him? "I want to know Him more. I want to know Him and the fellowship of his suffering and the power of His resurrection." Let me tell you, when you know Jesus and the power of resurrection, you know you're prepared to die, and you know how to live. There's no fear in life when you get to that place.

David is writing this Psalm, and David has such a heart for the Lord. We looked at his life in brief, but some of David's sins were written in the scriptures. We all know his sin. Listen, when you get to heaven, you're not going to be like "Dave...Dave! Really? How could you? You had a beautiful wife! What went wrong? How could you?" No! We're going to look at David and we're going to realize that we're all capable, we're all sinners. James 2:10 says, if you break one part of the law, you broke how many? All of them! Oh, you sinners... you bunch of sinners! I love that God puts that in there.

Paul, who is the great apostle, calls himself the chief of sinners. He says, I'm the sinner that goes beyond you. Most people look at Paul and go, "Oh no, he was holy Paul. He was the vicar of Christ." He wasn't, but people look at him that way and they think he was because he was the great evangelist. He was the thirteenth apostle if you will, once Judas was gone. Paul was walking with the Lord all that time, he started all of those churches, he was a great evangelist, he was the church-planter. Listen, if you ever said that to Paul, do you know what he would tell you? He would say that wasn't me, that wasn't me. 1 Corinthians 15:10. He says, "I, Paul, labored more than all the others." Most preachers will stop there and go, oh we all need to be like Paul! We need to go out there and we need to strive, and we need to work, and we need to do... but finish the sentence, finish the scripture. He says, "but not me, but the grace of God in me." That's why it's one of my favorite verses. 1 Corinthians 15:10. "I am who I am, by the grace of God." You are who you are, by the grace of God. Whatever skills or gifts that God has given you, you give God the glory because you know it's not yours. Everything we have is His. He's given us all things to enjoy, He's laid them all out for us.

David, unfortunately, had his sins in the scriptures. Bathsheba, the sword never leaving his house, his son raping his daughter. They were stepbrothers and sisters, and then the brother of the one that was raped, he kills the other one and then the other one wants to

take over the kingdom. Then David is running from his son when he's already ordained as king? It makes no sense, but it's the weakness of the flesh. We all have it. Even if you're Joe super-Christian... we don't have any Joes here so I can use Joe as an example! Even if you're Joe super Christian, it doesn't matter. We all have faults. We all, and you know what that word all means right? All! That three-letter word will get you. We all fall short of the glory of God. So, I look at David, and I read the Psalms, and I see the heart of David because he had a heart after God. I don't see anything but grace. I see grace and I see grace poured out on him. So, when David writes a Psalm like 139, he talks about God being all-knowing, the omniscience of God. How God knows everything about him. There's nothing he can hide; his life is an open book. Literally, it's in the scriptures!

Listen, David was a man of war. He killed many people in cold blood. He had Uriah killed, Bathsheba's husband. I mean, things that we probably would never even think of, but boy, did he have a heart after God! You read Psalm 51 where he's repented and pours his heart out before Almighty God. You see, when you sin, 1 John 1:9 says, when you confess your sins before the Lord, He is faithful and just to forgive you. When He forgives you of that sin, the Word of God says it's buried, in Micah 7, into the deepest part of the sea. It's cast, in Psalm 103, as far as the east is from the west, it's never to return. We're the ones that bring it up all the time!

I wonder how many times David, after repenting of his sin, thought to himself, how could I? Probably as many times as you and I have thought about those sins in our lives and we thought, how could we? Yet if we truly believe in the Word of God, it's buried, it's covered, it's forgiven, it's gone. It's gone! I love 1 John 1:7, it says that the blood of Jesus Christ flows continuously. So as long as we're walking in the Light, the blood of Jesus Christ is cleansing us. You are going to sin, but there's the blood of Jesus. It's just cleansing, cleansing, cleansing. 1 John 1:8, is when you walk away willfully from the Lord. When you know you overtly sin, and you just keep going. We all know what God does with those people, if you're truly His. Hebrews 12:6, He will discipline those that are His, those whom He loves. If you're running around and He's not disciplining you, and you're not hitting any roadblocks... check your heart. Don't check His, check your heart. It's an amazing thing that the Lord knows everything about us and yet He just pours His love out for us.

Many times, we can hold grudges when people wrong us. Then we say oh I forgive them, but I won't forget! Well then you didn't forgive them because forgiveness means forgetting. Think about Jesus. He chose not to remember. He says, I remember their sins no more. He has to choose not to remember our sins, and He doesn't. He doesn't bring them up, Satan does. We do, but the Lord doesn't. The believer cannot be removed from the supporting, comforting presence of his Almighty God. No outward circumstances can separate him from his Lord. We can't escape, nor should we.

We're going to look at verses seven through twelve tonight. Verse seven, again this is the omnipresence of God. We have the omniscience then omnipresence. He is everywhere. It says, where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? Now he's not saying that he wants to flee. He's making a statement more than a question. He's saying, I can't go anywhere.

Verse eight, if I ascend to heaven, You are there. If I Make my bed in Sheol, the netherland, the place of the grave, he says, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn (that actually means traveling by the speed of light), if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there, I love this, Your hand will lead me. Your right hand will lay hold of me. You know, I love when He says those things. I just picture being in His arms and I'm so smothered by Jesus that you can't even see me.

Verse eleven, if I say surely the darkness will overwhelm me and the night around me will be night, even the darkness is not dark to You and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. There's so much there! The omnipresence of the Lord. There's absolutely no place where he could escape from the presence of Almighty God. Listen to Jeremiah 23:24. It says, "can a man hide himself in a hiding place, so I do not see him," declares the Lord. Jeremiah's writing, he's speaking for the Lord, and the Lord says, "can a man hide himself?" What's your hiding place? Where do you hide? He says, "do I not fill the heavens and the earth," declares the Lord. If He fills the heavens and earth, where in God's name are we going to hide? Yet people think they can hide. In the dark? God can't see in the dark... well, not according to Psalm 139. He sure can. David spoke of God's Spirit as an essential aspect of His being in the presence. The presence of God's glory is in heaven, the presence of His power is on earth, the presence of His justice is in hell, and His presence of grace is with His people. Isn't that awesome? When you think of the Lord being everywhere, then that means He's in hell. I always say, if Jesus was in hell, I'm okay to be there. I just want to be where Jesus is. Yet Jesus is in heaven too, so I'll just take the train up, not down, and go to heaven! You realize that He is though (in hell), His presence is there only to bring forth His justice. Even so the hearts of people won't turn.

I've said before my friend Ed Miller loves to come out with these crazy statements. He'll say, I speak as a fool, it can't happen, it won't happen, but do you think if Jesus went to hell and he said, everyone gets a second chance... how many people do you think would turn? I said, in my emotional state, on my emotional side, I would like to think that some of them would; but knowing the bible the way that I know it, I'm ready to say none. He said, none! We have precedence, we have a picture of that. It's in the tribulation, that the people that were revealed the truth will still not turn. They're going to see stuff coming from the sky, they're going to see all these things happening. They're going to see demons! Literally, they're going to see them, and it says they still won't turn.

Another picture was Pharoah. Pharoah saw all these miracles that God was doing through the hand of Moses and Aaron. It says that Pharoah hardened his heart. He got to the place after so many hardenings where he was not going to ever repent and turn from his wicked way, that the Lord hardened his heart. When God hardens your heart, there's no turning back. So, you can see where the Lord is there too.

David didn't look at the presence of God as condemnation. He didn't see it condemning him, he saw it comforting him. Romans 8:1 says, therefore, there is now no condemnation to those are in Christ Jesus. None. So, when we look at the presence of God, embrace it. David didn't wish to take off or leave or hide from the presence of God. He asked the question to set forth the fact that no one can escape from the all-pervading Spirit of God. Jehovah is omnipresent to me. His mind is our mind, Himself within ourselves. His Spirit is over our Sprit. Our presence is ever in His presence.

I want to read John 14, I love this passage. Jesus is giving His high priestly prayer, it's called, and it is. It's the last time that He'll be giving them this discourse. Starting in verse sixteen, the heading is the role of the Spirit. He says, I will ask the Father and He will give you another helper. Another means one of the same kind. The helper is the paraclete, which is the Holy Spirit. It says that He may be with you forever. Forever! Jesus is on earth; He's telling them this. He's saying listen, the Lord is going to send another just like Me. It's the Spirit of Jesus, it's the Holy Spirit, and He is going to be with you. Not for some time, not until you die, no, forever! We're going to have the Holy Spirit in heaven because in heaven we're still going to be learning and growing and drawing nearer to the Lord. That's the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 17 says, that is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He abides with you and will be in You.

Verse 18, I will not leave you as orphans. What a beautiful promise! I will come to you. After a little while, the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day, you will know that I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in you. You can't escape that; you can't push the Lord aside. If you're His, and He's yours... then He's yours! Song of Solomon 6, I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He's mine. God wants to walk with us and guide us because His plan for us is the very best. We may not think so, but He doesn't ask for your permission. He doesn't say, hey, what's your plan? Let me know your plan and I'll see if it matches up with mine. That's not our Lord. Our Lord has the perfect plan. All the plans I have for you, the plan to prosper. Then you think well last time I checked my wallet, I'm not prospering! Check your spiritual wallet. You aren't going to prosper monetarily. Some may, most won't. Let me tell you, spiritually, I'm the richest guy in here! You should say the same thing for you. You're the richest person in here. We have the very riches of Almighty God. We're joint heirs with Christ. What He has, we have. It's too much to count, I can't

count all my riches.

We should never want to run from the Lord. You know who ran from the Lord? I believe all doctrine; everything leads back to the garden. Adam and Eve, they ran from God. Genesis 3:8 says, they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Now, how do you think that worked out? They hid themselves from God... like you won't see us here! Nope, I know you won't! In the trees no less. The Lord says, "Adam!" I love it... "Adam, where are you?" Like the Lord's playing hide and seek with him, you know? Here's the beauty of that. Adam didn't know where he was, Adam was living in sin for the first time since he was created. It was a place he's never been, and he hid from his wife. At the end of chapter two, it says they were naked, they had no shame. Now they have fig leaves on, they're covering themselves from each other. The guilt, the shame... they hid themselves. When God said, "Adam, where are you?" He wanted Adam to know where he was. Adam, you're in a different state, you're in a different place.

Jonah tried running from God, how'd that work out? Not too good! Look at how much Jonah wanted to run from God. He says, they find out that Jonah's God is the reason why the storm is happening while they're in the ship. Jonah says, "okay all right, I'll give in. You know Lord, I'll go where you want me to go, stop the waters from rising"... oh no, no! Jonah says, "throw me in the water." I'm like no, that's suicide, but he didn't care. He says, "throw me in the water," which was all part of God's plan by the way. We know what kind of fish. We're not telling everybody. If you don't know, you have to ask somebody that knows. Oh, you weren't here for that? All right I'll tell you, I can't help myself! It was a *prepared* fish. That's what the bible calls it, a *prepared* fish. That's all extra information, you don't get charged extra for any of that stuff! That's all free, just like salvation, it's free. We need God's presence with us if we want to enjoy His love and fulfill His purpose. You know why? It's the only way it'll happen, the only way.

Psalms 23, verse four says, even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me. This is David's Psalm too. He says, Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. The rod and the staff are disciplinary tools. For David, that's my comfort. Matthew 28:19 says, "go therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I command you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the ends of the ages." David says, You are with me. The Lord says I am with you. Heaven isn't too high; hell isn't too low. God is everywhere. In these verses, he says, Your Spirit, Your presence, You are there, Your hand, Your right hand. Darkness doesn't hide from You. It's all about Jesus, it's all about the Lord. God is everywhere but He is not in everything. Don't mistake it. There's such a thing as pantheism. They believe that God is in the sun, He's in the trees, He's in the flowers. No, He's not. He created them. The only creation that He entered into was the flesh of man. Not the sinfulness of man, but

man. He first asserted that the Lord is present in the heavens about and Sheol below. These opposites, they signify, as we looked at last week, merisms. It's the extreme of one to another. It means that He is in between it all. He's the Alpha and the Omega. That means He's all the other alphabet, all the other letters of the Greek alphabet too. He's the first and the last, that means He's everything encompassed in the middle as well. He's all-knowing and He's everywhere. Verse 9, he says, if I take the wings of dawn, if I dwell in the remote part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me and Your right hand will lay hold of me. It's the speed of light. I mean, think of the fastest thing that you can think of, and to think that you can escape Almighty God by it... it's impossible! It's impossible because God is with us, God is all around us.

I love in the upper room when Jesus showed up, when Thomas wasn't there and people are like oh, he walked through the wall. He just transcended right through the wall, and nobody even knew. He was there the whole time! When we got here tonight, do you think Jesus was here waiting for us? He sure was. He'll be here when we leave. Even still He goes on with each one of us everywhere we go.

It's just amazing, an amazing picture of how much the Lord loves us. To dwell inside of us. The tabernacle was nothing more than a picture of a house that the Lord wanted to dwell in from the beginning. From the beginning, He gave Moses a blueprint. It was as in heaven, and He brought it to earth. He made this whole thing; it was all made of skin. In the holy of holies, it was all covered with skin. Now He dwells in each one of us. Think about it. David, in the Old Testament, knew this. He knew the Spirit of God was with him all the time, that it would never leave him. Huh... that's new covenant! David was so assured of the constant presence of God's hand and loving care that not even death and the grave could separate him from God's love. As Paul would later write in Romans 8:38-39, "for I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, not things to come, not power, nor height (talk about merism), not depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Now he stated, the hand of the Lord would lead and comfort him.

I'm reminded of Psalm 23 again, in verses two and three. It says this, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in the paths of righteousness," and I love this, "for His namesake." Do you think you're going to green pastures on your own? Like that's your desire? No, He leads you, He brings you there. Thank God for God! His hand will lead us. The Lord would be leading, covering, preserving, sustaining us, even when we were fugitives from Him. Both the hands of God are for His own servants, to sustain them, and against rebels to overthrow them. In this respect, it matters not to what realm they resort. The activity of His presence of God is around them always.

People think, you know, the devil is all around, check under your seat, make sure he's

not there! I know some Christians that think when anything negative happens that it's the enemy, it's the devil. No, it's life. I hate to tell you, but things are going to happen that you're not going to like. You're going to get sick at times, and people are going to die unexpectedly, and that's called life. That's not the devil. I can tell you this. The devil has no power over me, none whatsoever, I don't give him any thought. Do I know him? Yes, I know him. Does he know me? I don't know, probably not. Maybe some of his demons know me by name, but so be it. If he had his way, do you think any of us would be here tonight? Then he doesn't have his way. God will always have His way. Always! The power of God you cannot quench.

Last two verses, 11 and 12. If I say, surely the darkness will overwhelm me (that means cover me), and the light around me will be night. Even the darkness is not dark to You and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. When I go to bed, I like it so dark that when my eyes open, I can see the same thing as I see when my eyes are closed. That's how dark I like it. That darkness, you might think, or man might think, that's a good hiding place. The Lord won't find me there because He can't see in the dark. David says the dark is no different than the light because in the Lord there is no darkness. So, we can't even hide in the darkness. You can't escape from the presence of Almighty God, but why would you want to? The only reason why man wants to escape from the presence of God is the sinfulness of man. They think that they're going to get away with it... everything is done in the night, it says. The night is darkness. Why? Because that's where they think they're getting away with it. The reality of it is that nobody gets away with it.

We didn't get away with our sin, we needed a sacrifice. The difference between us and the unbeliever, is that we trusted Jesus Christ to be our sacrifice. He paid for all of our sin; past, present, and future. For the unbeliever, they don't have a sacrifice, and they can't sacrifice themselves. They try to hide, and there's no hiding place. As far as God is concerned, we always dwell in the light. Why? Because we have His light. Even the night itself glows with a revealing force. If the darkness be light, how great is the light in which we dwell? Isn't it awesome? That's why we need new bodies when we get to heaven. The light and the glory, we can't receive it, we'd disintegrate. One commentary said, let us do the same as the cry of Hagar. She said, "you are a God who sees." I like the margin, it says, "You God, see me. You see me." She was sure happy that the Lord saw her. We should be happy that the Lord sees us.

God's presence with David was like a constant light in darkness. Darkness is light to Him and has no hiding place from Him. He's not thinking of hiding from God, but David could not be hidden from God for darkness and light are the same in Him. Job 34:22 says there is no darkness or deep shadow where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. Daniel 2:22, "it is He who reveals the profound and hidden things. He knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells with him." 1 John 1:5, "this is the message we have heard from Him and announced to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all." In the Lord, it's all light. Darkness is not dark to You. It

shines as the day, quiet and clearly, and distinctly manifesting all that is done. Assuredly, God is in all places at all times, and nothing can positively be kept away from His all-observing, all-comprehending mind. The great Spirit comprehends within Himself all time and space, and yet He is infinitely greater than these, and everything else that He has made. The Lord loves us enough to live inside of us. He doesn't leave when you mess up. He doesn't run when you're sinning. He doesn't go anywhere. He's committed, He's committed to you. He'll never leave you nor forsake you, and He lives within You because He is here. Amen?

Our Father God, we do thank You for Your Word tonight. Thank You Lord that You dwell in our hearts, that You'll never leave nor forsake. Thank you for how much You care for us, that Your hand is upon us, that Your hand will lead us and that You lay hold of us. God, I pray that we have a picture of You just carrying us and sheltering us as we walk through this world, Lord God. I pray that our eyes would be on You always, and that we would appreciate and be grateful for all that You are in our lives. Lord, You did more than save us. You sanctified us. You will glorify us, and You will continue to live in us and through us. We just give You all the glory. It's in Christ's Name we pray. Amen.