

8—With Us Forever

6/9/24

INTRO:

I. → Psalms 139:7-18

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

→ 11 *If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me*

and the light become night around me,"

even the darkness will not be dark to you;

the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

→ 13 *For you created my inmost being;*

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

→ 16 *Before they came to pass*

all things ordained for me were written in your scroll

before one of them came to be.

How precious are your thoughts to me, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them,

they would outnumber the sand.

When I awake, I am still with you.

BODY:

I. Far and Wide

A. The Spirit has a perspective that is far beyond our own.

1) **Psalms 33:13-15**

*From heaven the Lord looks down
and sees all mankind;
from his dwelling place he watches
all who live on earth—
he who forms the hearts of all,
who considers everything they do.*

2) **GETTING AROUND NYC WITH GOOGLE MAPS**

B. Nothing in this life can separate us from the love of God.

1) **Romans 8:38-39**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor
any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in
all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

2) **TRUMP, HAMAS RALLY, ISRAEL DAY**

II. Big and Small

A. The infinite God reveals Himself to us in the intimate things.

1) **Isaiah 57:15**

*"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite."*

2) **CHRISTIAN EXISTENTIALISM**

- a) Rationalism—the universe can be understood by reason and intellect
- b) Existentialism—the universe is a mystery, and meaning is on personal level
 - i) Pessimism—life is mostly pain and suffering

- ii) Nihilism—life is meaningless
- iii) Absurdism—life can only be accepted as absurd
- iv) Christian—our meaning is found in a personal encounter with God

B. His Spirit knows us better than we know ourselves.

1) **1 John 3:19-20**

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

2) **WATCHING GENERATIONS GROW UP**

III. Beginning and End

A. His purpose can be found even in the midst of the chaos.

1) **Philippians 4:4-5**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

2) **EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME**

- 3) When the God-forsaken worldliness of earthly life shuts itself in complacency, the confined air develops poison, the moment gets stuck and stands still, the prospect is lost, a need is felt for a refreshing, enlivening breeze to cleanse the air and dispel the poisonous vapors lest we suffocate in worldliness . . . Lovingly to hope all things is the opposite of despairingly to hope nothing at all. Love hopes all things—yet is never put to shame. To relate oneself expectantly to the possibility of the good is to hope. To relate oneself expectantly to the possibility of evil is to fear. By the decision to choose hope one decides infinitely more than it seems, because it is an eternal decision.—Søren Kierkegaard, *Works of Love*

B. The choices we make shape the reality we live in.

1) **John 14:15**

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever."

2) **BIRTH OF CAMBDEN JOHN COOKE**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

1 Kings 8:27

“But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

Jeremiah 23:23-24

“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the Lord, “and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the Lord. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord.

Jonah 1:10

This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

1 Thessalonians 2:4

On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.