

# The Presence of God

(Proverbs 3:5-10)

- Introduction:**
1. One doesn't live very long until he comes to realize that life is frequently difficult.
  2. Without an anchor for the soul, one could easily be "lost at sea" because of the storms of life.
  3. However, trusting in God and in his presence are things that can serve as a great aid to our lives, yet many often fail to appreciate the blessings of his abiding presence.
  4. Ills.—Electricity. 75 years ago a woman had electricity installed in her home. After several months, hardly any had been used. Electric company comes to her house to check it out. Ask her if she's using it. Oh, yes. But it's not registering hardly any use. How do you use it. Every night at dusk, I flip the switch and the light comes on so I can see to light my candles. Obviously not taking advantage of the great resource that was hers.
  5. Likewise we fail to understand the great resource of God's abiding presence.

## I. The Presence of God: Threat or Comfort?

- A. (Psalm 139).
- B. Whether one is threatened or finds comfort in the presence of God depends upon the way he has chosen to live his life.

## II. The Promise of His Presence

- A. (Matthew 28:19-20).
- B. (John 14:23).
- C. Living with a sense of presence will change the way we live for the better.
- D. If you thought about God's presence, wouldn't you be a more moral person?
- E. Think of how the presence of God would have affected the way Obed-Edom lived (2 Samuel 6:10-11).
- F. Imagine if the ark of the covenant was in your living room. Would it make you a better, more conscientious person?

### **III. The Focus Of His Presence**

- A. (Daniel 3:22-26).
- B. The presence of God distracted their attention away from the flames.
- C. They focused upon God, and not their circumstances.
- D. Note that they didn't run out of the flames, but had to be told to come out of the flames.
- E. The presence of God can distract us from the unpleasant and overwhelming circumstances of life.
- F. Ills. When Matthew was 6 and Anne Marie was 2, we would sometimes ask him to go downstairs to get something. He look at us and say, "But it's dark." We'd say, "turn on the lights." He'd say, "But I'm scared." We'd finally tell him to quit arguing and being afraid and go do it. He'd then turn to his 2 year old sister and say, "Anne Marie, want to go downstairs with me?" How's a 2 year old going to help him? (Later I thought about it. I think he was going to use her as a sacrifice so he could make his escape from any monsters down there). But here's the point. If the presence of a 2 year old can embolden one to do what he was unwilling to do, what can the presence of God do for us?

### **IV. The Peace Of His Presence**

- A. (Romans 8:28).
- B. Regardless of what happens in life, God takes notice and promises us it will be okay.
- C. (2 Kings 6:8-20).
  - 1. Elisha's servant was terrified by the circumstances.
  - 2. Elisha was calm and asked the Lord to open his eyes.
  - 3. What a relief it must have been when he realized God's presence!

- Conclusion:
- 1. While I don't want to minimize the storms of life that you may be facing, I can assure you that however great that storm may be, there is an anchor for your soul.
  - 2. Focusing upon the presence of God in the midst of the storm is the key to living a successful life (Matthew 14:25-31).