

# God over all things - Outline

## October 14, 2018

**The Bible tells us that God is present everywhere.**

God is near to us.

*“His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. (Acts 17:27, NLT)*

Theologians call this the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

God is far away from us.

*Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:24, NLT)*

Theologians call this the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**What does it mean to say that God is present everywhere?**

1. There is \_\_\_\_\_ in the universe where God is \_\_\_\_\_.

*I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. (Psalm 139:7–8, NLT)*

2. God is near to \_\_\_\_\_.

*God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. (Psalm 46:1, NLT)*

3. Yet God is near to others.

*he is not far from any one of us. (Acts 17:27b, NLT)*

4. God is present through what He has made.

*The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. (Psalm 19:1–3, NLT)*

5. Yet God is not what He has made.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1, NLT)*

God is distinct from his creation.

6. God is attentively present to those who call on His name.

*The LORD is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:18, NLT)*

7. God is with us even when we don't want Him to be.

*I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! (Psalm 139:7, NLT)*

But that is ultimately a good thing.

*I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. (Psalm 139:8–12, NLT)*

### **Why is the Immanent Presence of God so valuable to us?**

1. He is with us in the dark valleys.

*Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. (Psalm 23:4, NLT)*

2. He is with us when everything else seems to be against us.

*You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. (Psalm 23:5, NLT)*

3. He is with us every day of our lives.

*Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. (Psalm 23:6, NLT)*

## **Digging Deeper**

### *For small groups and individuals*

Have you had an experience where you really felt that God was near to you?

Have you ever had a season in life where you felt that God was far away from you?

#### **Read Psalm 139:1-6.**

What does this section teach us about God's knowledge of us?

#### **Read Psalm 139:7-12.**

What does this section say about our relationship with God's presence?

In what ways is God's presence great news or terrifying news?

#### **Read Psalm 139:13-18.**

What does this section teach us about God's sovereignty (God's rule over us)?

Read the following verses and discuss what they say about the idea that God is everywhere.

1 Kings 8:27

Isaiah 66:1

Acts 7:48-49

Acts 17:28

Matthew 18:20, 28:20

Jeremiah 23:23-24

In what ways is God's presence great news or terrifying news?

How does God's presence help us to live for God today?