

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“The God Who Sees & Knows Our Deeds”

By Brian Meade

The Bible teaches us in Proverbs 15:3, *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”*

It is a fact that the God of all the universe takes interest in what goes on here on planet earth. God—the Creator and Father of all of us living here—cares very much about us and sees our deeds both good and bad. This ought to be a comforting thought to those who trust and call upon Him in faith, but at the same time it is also a warning of our accountability to God for evil deeds as well!



The technical term for this is Omnipresence, which is defined as, “Present in all places at all times.” (Merriam Webster) That cannot be said of men, but only of God Himself!

The psalmist and King David wrote of God’s ever-present nature in Psalm 139:7-10, *“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.”* (See also Genesis 31:43-55; 2 Chronicles 16:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24)

As Jonah will also attest, we cannot go anywhere to escape the presence of God. The Bible tells us that after God commissioned Jonah to preach to the city of Nineveh, *“But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”* (Jonah 1:3) We all know the rest of the story & how that went for Jonah!

God knew exactly where Jonah was at every moment. Man cannot hide ourselves from the Almighty God who sees and knows all our deeds, it is and an impossible and futile endeavor!

But there are both positive and negative aspects of this, as we can see from the Scriptures. God knows every intimate detail about us— as Jesus explains in Luke 12:6-7, *“Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. “Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”*

Here is a good sense of God’s knowledge of us. This also proves that God cares about us and even the lowly sparrows, as He watches over all.

And something even more than that— God knows the very number of the hairs on our head. Most people may not even know that themselves! That’s just how much in detail God knows about each and every one of us on the earth!

I. God Sees & Knows Our Sins.

The Psalmist David tells us in Psalms 69:5, *“O God, You know my foolishness; And my sins are not hidden from You.”* (NKJB)

We all need to firmly grasp— like David knew in this psalm— that we cannot sin and keep it hidden from God. We may be tempted to think that as long as no one sees us, we are by ourselves, and “we got away with it”...that somehow God didn’t see it either.

In Joshua 7:1-26, we read of the sad end of a man named Achan, who thought he could take from the spoils of the city of Jericho and get away with it. The Bible tells us that Achan confessed what he had done in verse 21, *“when I saw among the spoil a beautiful mantle from Shinar and two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold*

fifty shekels in weight, then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it.” He confessed only after being found out! God knew what he had done, and that’s why the Israelites were routed by the small town of Ai in verses 2-5. We need to take heed to God’s knowledge of Achan’s sin and punishment for it (Romans 15:4).

In John 12:1-6, the Bible tells us of Judas’ concealed sin of stealing from the money box. This sin is pointed out to us in John’s account of when Mary Magdalene anointed the feet of Jesus’ feet with a costly perfume. Judas objects to this waste, and then John gives us inspired commentary on Judas’ motivations, *“Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.”* (John 12:6) The Father and Son knew well of Judas’ plans (John 12:4; 13:2, 21).

In Acts 5:1-10, Ananias and Sapphira both conspired to lie to the Holy Spirit and claim to have brought all the money from the sale of their property. They thought that it was just between the two of them, but God knew and so did Peter in verses 3-4, *“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”* They both died for their deception!

II. God Sees & Knows Our Obedience.

Not only does God see our sins, but He also takes notice when we keep & obey His word as well. Hebrews 5:9 says, *“And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,”* If God did not know what goes on here on the earth, then how could Jesus know who is obedient or not to reward them with salvation? If Jesus doesn’t know our deeds of obedience, then it would be meaningless to obey His commandments!

Any promise of salvation by God would also be empty (Titus 1:2 & 11; Hebrews 2:3 & 10; 1 Peter 1:5). But thankfully that is not an issue with God— He sees and knows the obedient. In Romans 6:17-18, Paul speaks of when the Romans obeyed the gospel, *“But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”*

This is true every time someone believes and is baptized into Christ (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21) because God sees and knows when genuine obedience takes place “from the heart.” God knows even knows the fake from the real in obedience (Matthew 15:7-9; Matthew 23).

The Scriptures tell us in Luke 15:10, *“In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

Heaven takes notice and rejoices when someone in sin repents and does what is right before God!

III. God Sees & Knows Our Good Works.

In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus rebukes the hypocritical show of giving “to be noticed by men” (6:1). He emphasizes the fact that God knows even when men don’t, *“But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”* (Matthew 6:3-4)

It is because God can see what’s done in secret and is able to reward it openly!

Notice in Matthew 10:42, *“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”*

Here we are told that even the smallest deeds will be rewarded. Why? Because God can see and know when it occurs! That ought to give us encouragement that our labor is not in vain! (1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 6:10). God doesn’t forget!

IV. God Sees & Knows Our Prayers.

We are told in 1 Peter 3:12, *“For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”* Again, how is this possible if God doesn’t care or know when prayer takes place by His righteous ones? Prayer would not be powerful or effective if God did not hear them! God would not be able to answer prayer at all, but yet He does!

James tells us in James 5:16-18, *“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months. Then he prayed again, and the sky poured rain and the earth produced its fruit.”*

God heard Elijah and answered his prayer, and James gives us that example to help us trust in prayer to God!

V. God Sees & Knows For The Judgment Day!

Hebrews 4:13 tells us, *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*

If there were no knowledge of our deeds good or bad— there would be no accountability! Then anyone could get away with sin and mock God (Gal. 6:7-8). But that will not happen because God truly sees and knows!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, Clois Wright, and Dan & Linda Hunt, Martha Cottrell (Dan's Mom), Brandi Meade, Mollie Harris.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Russell Briggs
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Our Relationship With Jesus"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Jerry Kennemur
The Book of Romans (Kyle Pope)
Page #43 Question #7

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
Psalm 99:1-5
Song Leader: Adam Harris
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: Russell Briggs & Nathan Meade
Singing Service: Men of the Congregation Lead in Singing
Invitation: Sam Johnson
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 25th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
The Book of Psalms (Randy Blackaby)
Page #25, Question #1
Invitation: Russell Briggs
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.