

An Absentee God

A quotation of a man of God who was physically blind, “*There are over many who have much knowledge who often speak of God while rarely speak to Him.*”

These words were written a long time ago by a man named Malaval referring to Christians of his day and the same problem is found in a vast number of Christians today.

Psalms 139:1-16 [NIV] “*O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in, behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. 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 the depths, 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. 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. 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. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*”

The Christian Bible teaches very plainly the doctrine of the divine omnipresence, but for the masses of professed Christians this is an era of the Absentee God.

Most Christians speak of God [Jesus Christ] in the manner usually for a departed loved one, rarely as of One who is present.

I suppose it is better to think of God as existing in some remote region of a lonely universe than not to think of Him at all or worse, to deny outright that there is any such being as God.

An Absentee God is among other things is inadequate, **not** meeting the needs of a human being, within whom is a human spirit. [**Job 32:8; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Acts 7:59; James 2:26**]

Just as a baby is not satisfied away from its mother, or life on earth is impossible without the sun, so a human being needs a present God.

Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden, for, sin never feels comfortable in the presence of a divine God. [**Genesis 3:1-11**]

Jonah, in his determined refusal to obey God’s command, tried to flee from the presence of the Lord. [**Jonah 1:1-3**]

Peter, with a sudden acute consciousness of personal guilt, begged Jesus Christ to depart from him. [**Luke 5:8**]

Human beings need God above everything else, yet are uncomfortable in His presence.

This is the self-contradictory moral situation that human sin has produced.

A convinced atheist has more logical thoughts than a Christian who tries to worship an Absentee God.

The atheist can ignore all moral and religious precepts without fear because they believe that there is no Creator God to call them to account for their thoughts and actions.

An atheist's mental state is the same as a burglar who has talked himself into the belief that there are no policemen, courts or jail.

Both the atheist and the Christian who worships an Absentee God may enjoy peace of mind for a while until the truth catches up on them.

The notion that there is a God but that He is comfortably far away is **not** embodied in the doctrinal statement of any Christian denomination.

Anyone who dared to admit such a creed would be considered a heretic and avoided by all other Christians.

But our actions and especially our spontaneous utterances, reveal the true beliefs.

We are to be judged by our words and actions . [Matthew 12:37; 2 Corinthians 5:10-12; Romans 14:12; Ecclesiastes 12:14]

Yet the average Christian still considers that God is at a safe distance looking the other way.

One mental advantage gained from thinking of God as being absent is that we may assume that He is pleased with whatever we may be trying to do, as long as it is not downright wicked.

There would seem to be no other way to account for the vast amount of religious nonsense being carried on these days "*in the name of the Lord.*"

Psalms 139:23-24 [NIV] "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*"

It was after God had revealed just how omnipresent He is to King David [Psalms 139:1-16] that David responded in this way. An example we all should follow daily.

I believe that this deep-seated notion that God is absent makes so many of church services so insufferably dull, as repeated rituals make up the major part of the worship service.

Remember that the presence of Jesus Christ can only be experienced in any church service or fellowship if He is present and active in the lives of **each** individual attending!

Only through extensive and regular study of God's Word, the Christian Bible, and constant prayer [1 Thessalonians 5:17], that is prayer, how be it silent, in every situation in life, will the presence of Jesus Christ be real and present in our lives.