

Systematic Theology session 9
The Doctrine of God, "I Am Who I Am," Part 3

- God's attribute of immensity:
 - Definition of immensity: God's freedom from all limitations of place, space, or measure.
 - Immensity is an incommunicable attribute of God's greatness.
 - Immensity is an attribute that God has possessed from all eternity, before there was a creation.
 - God, in His essence, has never been limited, and He can never be limited.
 - God is by His essential nature infinite.
- God's attribute of omnipresence:
 - Definition of omnipresence: God's essence of being an infinite spirit, being everywhere in the cosmos.
 - Omnipresence is an incommunicable attribute of God's greatness.
 - Omnipresence is the result of God's immensity, as it is seen in His creation.
 - God, because of His immensity, cannot be limited; therefore, in creation, He is omnipresent.
 - What omnipresence is not:
 - Omnipresence does not mean that God is part of space, or part of His creation. God is present everywhere, but He is not part of everything. That would be the false doctrine of pantheism, which holds that "all is God and God is all." Remember the Creator-creature distinction; God is distinct from His creation.
 - Omnipresence is not just God being everywhere by means of infinite senses, as though God had webcams everywhere, so He is in a sense "present" because of powerful senses. God actually is everywhere present in the creation.
 - Errors of those who deny omnipresence:
 - The Anthropomorphic heresy: This heresy holds that God, in His essence, is physical, and has a physical body. This would make God localized, and deny the doctrine of omnipresence.
 - God has chosen, by His will, to declare places where He reveals a "special presence." Examples: His throne in Heaven, and the Old Testament tabernacle and temple. This does not conflict with omnipresence. When God wills to be present by a "special presence," He is choosing to manifest (reveal) certain attributes in a particular time and place.
 - The figure of speech of God being near or far from people. This is a Scriptural figure of speech that describes relational closeness or relational distance.
 - The Scripture speaks of God "approaching" a person or group of people. This does not conflict with omnipresence. When God, in Scriptural language "approaches" someone, this means that God is carrying out special business with a person or group, and is manifesting His attributes in a special way at that time.
 - Omnipresence brings comfort to God's people. God is a very present help in time of trouble. God is near, relationally speaking, to His people.
 - Omnipresence should bring dread to those who rebel against God.