

# THE NEARNESS OF OUR GOD

Psalm 139:7-16

May 11, 2025

**Isaiah 41:10** – fear not, for I AM WITH YOU; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Ephesians 2:13** – But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been BROUGHT NEAR by the blood of Christ.

## Introduction

- I. What are some initial observations we can make about God from Psalm 139:7-16?
- II. The lens that the world began to view everything through during the Enlightenment was \_\_\_\_\_ and rational thought. Knowledge was viewed as attainable independent of religious or traditional authority.
- III. **Spiritual Impact of the Enlightenment**

Where the Reformers rested on *SOLA SCRIPTURA* to determine their proper relationship to church authority, Enlightenment thinkers placed human reason as a gatekeeper to determine whether the Scriptures were \_\_\_\_\_. This led to skepticism or outright rejection of...

the **super-natural**

**Biblical authority**

**the Nature of God**

## IV. **What is Deism?**

This is the belief in the existence of a God who is \_\_\_\_\_ toward the world based on the evidence of reason and nature only, with rejection of supernatural revelation

Modern Deists → Moralistic Therapeutic Deists...rather than people serving God, he serves them.

### Where Christianity Differs with Deism

- God is \_\_\_\_\_ involved in human life.
- The Bible is God's Word revealed to humanity for our well-being
- God \_\_\_\_\_ answers our personal prayers according to his will.

## A Chronology of God's Nearness (Creation to New Creation)

### A Systematic Theology of God's Nearness

God is omnipresent meaning he is everywhere present with his \_\_\_\_\_ being at all times. God's omnipresence can be viewed from two perspectives...his personal \_\_\_\_\_ and his cosmic \_\_\_\_\_.

## FIRST, IMMANENCE

The immanence of God tells us that our Creator is always near to His creation. He is \_\_\_\_\_, and is actively involved within His creation.

- Biblical instances and affirmations of God's immanence...
  - Times of heartbreak...Psalm 34:18
  - Times of need...Hebrews 4:16
  - Times of submission...James 4:7-8
  - The Indwelling Holy Spirit...I Corinthians 3:16

## NEXT, TRANSCENDENCE

The transcendence of God refers to His existence and authority \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the created universe. It underscores God's majesty, affirming that He is not limited by time, space, or any aspect of creation, and is sovereign over it. Our only response to Him is reverence.

- Biblical instances and affirmations of God's transcendence...
  - Times of thought...Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Times of contemplation...Romans 11:33-36

## INTERPLAY OF IMMANENCE AND TRANSCENDENCE

The biblical portrayal of God encompasses both the immanence and transcendence of His nature. While God is transcendent, existing beyond the limitations of the created order, He is also immanent, actively engaging with His creation. This duality is essential for understanding the fullness of God's \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with humanity.

- Times of discipline...Psalm 139:7-10

The doctrine of God's immanence and transcendence invites believers to approach Him with both intimacy and reverence, recognizing His nearness and His majesty.

## Conclusion:

- I. **DO YOU BELIEVE THE NEARNESS OF GOD TO BE YOUR HIGHEST** \_\_\_\_\_?...See Moses' request from God. "Show me your glory" (Exodus 33:18). If our desire to be near Him is lacking, we will certainly have no great yearning for eternity but will instead yearn for the things of this earth. A lack of desire for God's nearness reveals our desires are rooted in worldliness.
- II. **PRACTICE THE** \_\_\_\_\_ **OF GOD THIS WEEK....**Don't let sin or spiritual immaturity deprive you of endeavoring to know the nearness of God in your life this week.
  - The call from our brother Andrew 400 years ago to keep in mind that God is with us in every moment of our days. Never forget this blessed truth. Let it guide you. Let it convict you. Let it comfort you. Let it adjust your perspective to be in line with His.
  - Matthew 28:20b – And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age