TITLE: **Omniscience**

TEXT: Job 2:11-13 & 38:1-11, 22-25, 35-38 & 42:1-6;

1 Co. 13:12; Heb. 4:13; Ps. 139:1-4; Lk. 6:45; Is. 55:8-9

INTRODUCTION: How many omniscient people do we have here this morning?

 How many know what Omniscience is?

(If you don’t know then be assured that you are not omniscient)

 The Dictionary defines Omniscient as:

**om·nis·cient** (¼m-n¹sh“…nt) *adj.* **1.** Having total knowledge and understanding; knowing everything:One having all knowledge.

 I have known a few people who have thought that they were omniscient, thought they knew it all! But no man has all the answers, possesses all knowledge!

 This morning I want to talk about Omniscience, particularly the omniscience of God!

 Omniscience is one of the things that separate man from God.

 God is the only one who is truly omniscient! Has total knowledge, knows everything that there is to know!

 God’s knowledge is like God Himself, it is infinite, without beginning and without end, has no limits or limitations!

 In fact if there was anything that God didn’t know then God wouldn’t be God because God is omniscient!

 Man on the other hand is finite, has a beginning and has an end! The knowledge of man we find is very limited!

 We see this illustrated for us in the book of Job.

 Job is a godly man and perceived to be one of the most knowledgeable men of his day. Job has three friends who are also Godly men and very knowledgeable.

God allows Satan to come against Job to test his faith.

 Job’s crops and livestock are all destroyed his sons and daughters are all killed, Job himself is inflicted with sickness, he has painful boils over the entirety of his body!

 Job’s three friends come to him to comfort him in his distress..

**Job 2:11 (NIV) When Job's three friends, Eliphaz .. Bildad .. and Zophar heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.**

**12 When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.**

**13 Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.**

At this point these three men are showing how wise they are! They come to Job to comfort him in his distress and don’t say a word!

 They just sit there as a show of support for their afflicted friend! Just being with him in his time of trouble!

 Scripture says that **they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was.**

 Have you ever been in a situation where no words would suffice to bring comfort, there was nothing that you could say to make the pain go away so you just sat there to offer whatever comfort your presence may provide?

 Example: When someone dies…

 Sometimes just the comfort of our presence is what is needed, just showing someone that we care enough to be there.. Especially in those times when there are no words that seem adequate. When we don’t have the answer as to why whatever happened, happened.

 Job’s friends found themselves in that place so they just sat with their friend in total silence for an entire week.

Then man does what man is so often tempted to do….

 Try to understand the un-understandable and explain the un-explainable!

 Job and his three friends start to try to understand and explain to each other why all this has happened to Job.

 For the next 34 chapters these men wax eloquent their philosophies and theologies on each other as to why all this has happened! Job maintaining his innocence before God while his three friends are insisting that their must be some hidden sin in Jobs life that God is punishing him for…

 Then after 34 chapters of all this rhetoric it is almost like God tires of hearing all there vain babble and superficial knowledge….

 Finally God speaks directly to Job ….

**Job 38:1 (NIV) Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:**

**2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel**

**with words without knowledge?**

**3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you,**

**and you shall answer me.**

**4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?**

**Tell me, if you understand.**

**5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!**

**Who stretched a measuring line across it?**

**6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone--**

**7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?**

**8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,**

**9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,**

**10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,**

**11 when I said, `This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?**

 For the next 5 chapters God fires one question after another at Job while his friends most probably just sit there with their heads hung down..

**Job 38:22 (NIV) "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail,**

**23 which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle?**

**24 What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth?**

**25 Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain,**

**and a path for the thunderstorm,**

Job 38:35 (NIV) Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, `Here we are'?

**36 Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind?**

**37 Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?**

**Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens**

**38 when the dust becomes hard and the clods of earth stick together?**

 After five chapters of relentless questioning by God Job finally is allowed to speak….

Here is what he says…..

**Job 42:1 (NIV) Then Job replied to the LORD:**

**2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.**

3 [You asked,] `Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

**4 ["You said,] `Listen now, and I will speak;**

**I will question you, and you shall answer me.'**

**5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.**

**6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."**

What happened? Job had a personal encounter with the Omniscient, the all knowing, all knowledgeable God of creation!

 And when God got through with Job the only thing that Job could say was:

Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

**My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."**

 Did Job finally come to a full understanding, a full knowledge of life and all its mysteries? Did he come to fully understand why he went through all this adversity in his life? No!

 Job just came to the understanding of the omniscience of God!

 That even though his understanding of things was very limited, his God was omniscient! Job didn’t have all the answers, but His God did! So Job would just simply trust in His God because His God is omniscient! His God does have the answer to all the questions!

 Life is full of hard questions!

 Why do Christians suffer at times? Why do some children die before they have an opportunity to experience life? Why are some children born into poverty and some into wealth?

 None of us have the answers to these kinds of questions!

We are finite by nature and the answers to these kind of questions is simply beyond our grasp…

 But the omniscient God of creation knows why everything happens….

**Psal 147:4 (NIV) He determines the number of the stars**

**and calls them each by name.**

**5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;**

**his understanding has no limit.**

 Do you realize the significance of the omniscience of God? Gods possessing all Knowledge?

 As Christians, Of all the things that we are tempted to blame God for here in this life I believe we will one day praise Him for in the next life!

 How can I say that? Because God is omniscient!

 How can we ever praise God for allowing a child to die?

 God sees the entire life of that Child from before that child was born. God knows what lay ahead of them.. Could it possibly be that there was something so horrendous, so grievous that would happen in the life of that child that God, in His infinite mercy, decides to spare that child from life itself and takes them directly to be with Him to spare them what lie ahead?

 How can we ever praise God for things such as poverty?

 God knows our every thought before we even think it!

He knows us better then we know ourselves! He knows if wealth will help us or hinder us! He may see that if we had too much money that it would become an idol in our life, that we would trust in it more then we would trust in Him and it would lead to our eternal damnation, so in His mercy He withholds from us that which would be our eternal ruin!

 Maybe the flat tire that we had in the rain getting our clothes all dirty and making us late for our child’s ball game was meant to slow us up just enough to advert the drunk driver that would have hit us head on and taken our life had we not had the flat tire!

 Maybe it is a particular trial or tribulation in our life that God allows us to go through that is meant to help lead us to embrace Christ Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our life, when our hearts have become hard or indifferent to Him, and had that trial or tribulation not come then God in His infinite wisdom knew we would never have accepted His atoning sacrifice for our sin and we would have ended up in Hell, eternally separated from His love!

 Scripture speaks of a day when we will have the full knowledge of God! When we will understand as God understands…

**1Cor 13:12 (NIV) Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.**

This is speaking of that day when Scripture says the dead in Christ shall rise first and then we which are still alive at the time will rise with them to meet the Lord in the clouds and receive the fullness of our salvation, being literally raised into newness of everlasting life with Him…

**Then we shall see face to face! Then we shall know fully, even as we are fully known.**

Now we know in part! We have partial knowledge, partial understanding, but then we shall know fully, even as we are fully known!

In short, one day will know as God knows! One day we will understand as God understands!

 All the mysteries of the universe will be made known to us!

 All of our questions and the why’s of this life will be answered!

 And on that day when we see as God sees and understand as God understands, our only response will be Praise God for His infinite wisdom! Praise God for His omniscience!

 What a Mighty God we serve!

 I want to touch upon one other aspect of the omniscience of God this morning….

 And that is in the area of our accountability to an omniscient God….

Hebr 4:13 (NIV) Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account!

 Again, the omniscience of God means that He has all knowledge! He knows all that we do before we do it!

 He knows every thought that we have before we form it!

 He knows every word that we speak before we speak it!

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account!

 There is really no such thing as a secret sin! For even if we can keep sin hidden from all other eyes, we can not keep it hidden from the eyes of Him who sees and knows everything!

James S. Hewett tells a story…

The father of a small boy would occasionally sneak into a neighbor's orchard and pluck some of the choicest fruit. He always made sure, however, that "the coast was clear." One day with his son tagging along, after carefully looking in every direction and seeing no one, he crept through the fence. He was just about ready to help himself when the youngster startled him by crying out, "Dad! Dad! You didn't look UP! You forgot to see if God is watching."

When temptation besets us and we're inclined to yield because no one else seems to be around, remember, our "God is always watching!"

 Reminds me of the song we learned in Sunday School.

 Be careful little hands what you do-

 Be careful little mouth what you say—

 For the Father up above is looking down in love-

 So be careful little hands and mouth what you do and say…

How can an omniscient God know even the words that we speak before we even speak them?

 Because God looks at and knows the heart of a man!

**Psal 139:1 (NIV) O LORD, you have searched me**

**and you know me.**

**2 You know when I sit and when I rise;**

**you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

**3 You discern my going out and my lying down;**

**you are familiar with all my ways.**

**4 Before a word is on my tongue**

**you know it completely, O LORD.**

Jesus said:

Luke 6:45 (NIV) The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

How can God know what we say before we even say it?

 God knows our heart and it is our heart from which flows our words and our deeds!

 God sees and knows the condition of our heart so He knows what will come forth from our heart in the form of words and deeds…

 And one day each one of us will be held accountable for the words that we speak and the deeds that we do! We are all accountable for the condition of our heart!

 Whether we have allowed Jesus to condition our heart or not!

 We can go to Church every Sunday and do all the things that make us look good to all those around us but God knows our innermost thoughts and intents of our hearts! He knows not just what we do but why we do what we do! He perceives our thoughts from afar. God knows because He is omniscient and nothing is hidden from His sight!

 So what should be our response to the omniscience of God?

 The only adequate response is that of praise and thanksgiving!

 Because we can trust a God who knows it all! We can have confidence and faith in a God who holds all the answers to all the questions!

 We can entrust our very life to a God who sees and perceives our thoughts from afar! One who knows and understands our pains, our hurts, our ambitions and our hopes and fears even better then we do!

 Because God is not just omniscient, all knowledgeable, but He is also all loving and all merciful!

 J.I. Packer gives us the proper perspective on the Omniscience of God in his book, “Knowing God”.

“There is, certainly, great cause for humility in the thought that He sees all the twisted things about me that my fellow men dot not see (and I am glad!), and that He sees more corruption in me then that which I see in myself. There is, however, equally great incentive to worship and love God in the thought that, for some unfathomable reason, He wants to be my friend and has given His son to die for me in order to realize this purpose.”

 The cross is where all points in God’s character meet. And it is no less with Gods omniscience!

 The Lord said through the prophet Isaiah…

**Isai 55:8 (NIV) "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"**

 declares the LORD.

**9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,**

**so are my ways higher than your ways**

**and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**As the heavens are higher than the earth,**

**so are my ways higher than your ways**

**and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

To see the reality of this statement just look to the cross!

Would you sacrifice your only child to a torturous death to have a relationship with someone who, for the most part, despises you?

 God did! In His omniscience, God knew the depths of our depravity demanded no less than the height of His infinite love….

 Church, the Omniscience of God is not something to be feared but something to be praised!

 Because it is in the omniscience of God that gave us the gift of Jesus and the hope of coming to eternal, resurrected life through Him!

 Are you thankful for God’s omniscience this morning?

 Do you take comfort in knowing that your God has all the answers to all the questions and that He loves you with a love that is as vast as His knowledge?