

TEACHING SERIES: Right Thinking About God
TEACHING #3: A DIVINE PARADOX
DATE: January 28, 2007

INTRODUCTION:

Define: **Paradox** - a seeming contradiction; **Transcendent** - above, beyond reach; **Immanent** - with & within

*Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free.
Force me to surrender my sword, and I shall conquer or be.
I cannot freely move, 'til You have fashioned my chain.
Enslave me with Your matchless love, and deathless I shall reign
My will is not my own 'til Thou hast made it Thine
If I would reach a monarch's throne, I must my crown resign*

I. **WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY GOD IS TRANSCENDENT?**

- A. **We don't mean:**
1. His location ~
 2. He's a superman ~
 3. He is distant from us ~
- B. **We do mean:**
1. He is totally Other in being
 2. Quality of His thoughts & motives ~ Isa 55:8-9
 3. Scope of His knowledge ~ Ps 139:6
 4. His Divine Justice ~ Gen. 18:25
 5. His perfect goodness, purity, holiness ~ Isa 6:1-5
 6. Transcendent in all His Ways ~ II Tim 6:16

II. **THE MEANING OF GOD'S IMMANENCE and OMNIPRESENCE**

- A. **Facets of the same diamond ~**
1. Omnipresence ~ present with...
 2. Immanence ~ present within...
- B. **Paradox > yes; contradiction > no ~ Acts 17:24, 28**
1. *Transcendent = absolute quality of His Being*
 2. *Immanence = relationship to His creation*
- C. **Omnipresence ~ Acts 17:27; Psalm 139:7-10**

III. **OUR RESPONSE TO THE DIVINE PARADOX**

- A. **Acknowledge Someone higher than us in every way ~ Isa 14:12-14; Gen 3:4-5; Col 2:2-3**
- B. **Our comfort & security ~ Matt. 28:20; John 14:20; Isa 57:15; Jer 23:23-24**
- C. **A God without limits works through 'natural means' & through supernatural means/miracles**
- D. **Worship: the missing crown jewel ~ John 14; Ps 42:1**

CONCLUSION: Believe it all ~ Heb 11:6; Gen 15:1