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THE BULWARK

YOU MAY RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

While driving west on Vanowen Boulevard following the morning worship, headed to a favorite restaurant; suddenly a disembodied female voice warned, "traffic camera ahead in 3 tenths of a mile". It was a feature that the car possessed of which I was unaware. Kind of makes me wonder what else the car has to offer that I don't know about. Perhaps reading the owner's manual might be a good thing.



It is estimated that there are one billion surveillance cameras currently in use worldwide. The bulk of which are found in China. But according to one estimate there are fifteen cameras to every 100 people in the United States. With the rise of AI usage, it is estimated that this number will increase by 15% yearly. The rationale offered more often than not for the increase in camera usage is that it is for "our own good"; security and safety being the issue. However to me it says, "you can run, but you can't hide."

"Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence?" (Psalms 139:7) David has awakened to the fact of the omnipresence of God. David started the psalms with the acknowledgement that God has *"searched me and known me"*, which is sobering to say the least. As the psalm unfolds, both the omnipresence and omniscience is brought to the fore-front. There exists an openness throughout the psalm and it is welcoming to know that God is aware of his thoughts and actions. Note verses twenty-three and twenty-four. *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way."* David invites God in. Are we as open as David was when he wrote this psalm?

The author of Hebrews explains in some detail that in our relationship with God is far deeper than anything a surveillance camera may see. *"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer."* (Hebrews 4:12-13) The word is living and active; it penetrates to the inner most depth of one's being. Nothing is hidden, all is exposed. Thoughts and intentions of the inner man. The full essence of all that we are.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good." (Proverbs 15:3)

"Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness." (Psalms 33:18)

We don't need to run from God, rather we should run to Him. Take note how the fourth chapter of Hebrews concludes after it had shown that nothing is hidden from God. *"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let's hold firmly to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need."* (v. 14-16) Truly, God saw the need for mankind to have a superior high priest that would allow us to draw near to the throne of grace and find mercy. (wbe)