TODAY'S SCRIPTURE FOCUS: PSALM 16:11

SERMON TITLE:

"THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD" Part 1

"You will show me the path of life; in YOUR *presence* is fullness of joy;" *Psalm 16:11a*

"at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" Psalm 16:11b

"And HE said, 'My

Presence will go with

you, and I will give

you rest.' "

Exodus 33:14

"But THE LORD was gracious to them...and would not yet...cast them from HIS presence."

II Kings 13:23

"Create in me a clean heart, O GOD,...do not cast me away from YOUR presence..."

Psalm 51:10-11

"Where can I go from YOUR SPIRIT? Or where can I flee from your *presence*?" *Psalm 139:7*

SERMONIC POINTS:

#1: CHARACTER

#2: CHALLENGE

#3: CONCLUSION

SERMONIC PNT.#1: CHARACTER

What is the nature and identity of GOD?

"For the eyes of THE LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show HIMSELF strong..."

II Chronicles 16:9a

"The eyes of THE LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

Proverbs 15:3

" 'Am I not a GOD near at hand,' says THE LORD, 'And not a GOD afar off?' " Jeremiah 23:23

" 'Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?' says THE LORD;" Jeremiah 23:24a

" 'Do I not fill the heaven and earth?' says THE LORD."

Jeremiah 23:24b

"If I ascend into heaven, YOU are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, YOU are there."

Psalm 139:8

"And HE is before ALL things, and in HIM all things consist."

Colossians 1:17

SERMONIC PNT.#2: CHALLENGE

The challenge is for us to ascend to GOD, not for GOD to descend to us!

"Seek THE LORD while HE may be found, call upon HIM while HE is near."

Isaiah 55:6

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to THE LORD"

"...And HE will have mercy on him; and to our GOD, for HE will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7b "Draw near to GOD and HE will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify..."

James 4:8

SERMONIC PNT.#3: CONCLUSION

What happens when when our ascent, meets GOD's descent?!

"THE LORD is near to all who call upon HIM, to all who call upon upon HIM in truth."

Psalm 145:18

"HE will fulfill the desire of those who fear HIM; HE also will hear their cry and save them."

Psalm 145:19

"GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1