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$$V(I) = \emptyset$$
 implies $I = R$

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Note that most of the notation used here is defined in the entry prime spectrum.

Theorem. If R is a commutative ring with identity and I is an ideal of R with $V(I) = \emptyset$, then I = R.

Proof. Let R be a commutative ring with identity and I be an ideal of R with $I \neq R$. Then, by http://planetmath.org/EveryRingHasAMaximalIdealthis theorem, there exists a maximal ideal M of R containing I. Since M is , then M is a proper prime ideal of R. Thus, $M \in V(I)$. The theorem follows. \square