

Exegetical Notes - Romans 11:33-36

**“From Him, Through Him, To Him - The Great Doxology”**

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**Romans 11:33-36**

*(In Romans 11, Paul is answering the question, “Did God reject Israel?” In Romans 11:1 he answered that question with an emphatic “NO.” God has not rejected Israel. He then explained that God will call a faithful remnant from among Israel that will profess with their lips that Jesus is the Messiah and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. He then moved to his second point; that Israel’s refusal to accept Christ as Savior opened the door of salvation to the non-Jewish world. Next, he proceeded to warn non-Jews not to rejoice in Israel’s fall from favor. Paul admonished non-Jews to consider God’s kindness and His sternness. In last week’s text, Paul reached his conclusion; all Israel and the full number of the Gentiles will be saved. This knowledge causes him to break out in praise to God.)*

**Verses 33-36**

**Verse 33**

***Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!***

***How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!***

- When Paul considers God’s great plan for the salvation of all who believe (The plan outlined for us in Romans 10-11), he breaks out in a great song of praise. That song of praise is found in this text, Romans 11:33-36.
- In verse 33, Paul says that no one can completely fathom the wisdom and the knowledge of God. Knowledge is simply knowing something (an accumulation of facts, concepts, ideas, etc.). But God knows everything. Wisdom is knowing how to use what you know effectively and practically. We cannot know all that God knows and we are unable to see how he uses his understanding to accomplish his purposes. But, when we do catch a glimpse of God’s wisdom and see how it is at work to accomplish his plan,

as in the case of God's working in Israel's refusal to accept Jesus so as to extend salvation to non-Jews (Romans 11), we are overwhelmed.

- Other passages from the Bible exclaim the same wonder (Job 5:9 & 11:7; Psalm 92:5 and 139:6; Ecclesiastes 8:17; Isaiah 40:28).

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#### **Verse 34**

<sup>34</sup> ***“Who has known the mind of the Lord?***

***Or who has been his counselor?***

- Since we are unable to know the mind of God or to grasp his purposes, none of us are capable of advising God.
- Other passages from the Bible which express this concept are Job 15:8 & 36:22; Isaiah 40:13-14; Jeremiah 23:18.

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#### **Verse 35**

<sup>35</sup> ***“Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay them?”***

- God owes no person anything.
- Other passages from the Bible which express this concept are Job 35:7 & 41:11.

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#### **Verse 36**

<sup>36</sup> ***For from him and through him and for him are all things.***

***To him be the glory forever! Amen.***

- All things come from God. All things come through God. All things work for God. Everything is moving to accomplish his plan even though we may not see how he is at work.
- Therefore, we should give thanks to God, for all glory is due to him (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *From Him, Through Him, To Him – The Great Doxology*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)