

Unsearchable, Unfathomable, and Unmatched – 30th June

Romans 11:30-36

Introduction- Romans 30-32:

There are many things in this life which we cannot fully understand
We may try and give explanations but often our questions go unanswered
Regardless of what we experience, and the questions which go unanswered we
need to ensure that God in the person of Jesus remains sovereign in all our
thinking and doing

In the preceding verses of chapter eleven the Apostle Paul describes that the
disobedience of Israel in rejecting their Messiah has enabled the Gentiles to
come into Gods plan of salvation

The nation of Israel were Gods chosen and the means through which Gods
salvation would come to all of mankind

However, Israel rejected God but this was all part of Gods plan

He writes in 11:32 -

**“For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that He may have mercy
on them all”**

Chuck Swindoll comments on this disobedience leading to mercy:

“God in His unsearchable mercy, has used the disobedience of all humankind
to “shut up” or capture us, (11:32). The Greek term is a compound word used
in Luke 5:6 to describe a fishing net “enclosing together” a great quantity of
fish. The idea is that God is surrounding us with our own sin and drawing the
net closed to cut off any means of escape. Why? To give us grace.”

God has gone to great lengths to extend His mercy and grace to a rebellious
and resistant people

“Such grace comes from a God of infinitely deep goodness”

Paul then launches into a doxology proclaiming the unfathomable nature of
our God

For the remainder of this teaching we will consider these verses in greater
detail

Doxology - Romans 11:33-35

He begins; **“Oh, the depth”**

“Bathos” meaning **“depth”** – For 1st century travellers nothing was more
powerful and profound than the sea

Even to this day as we are able to go deeper and deeper into our oceans and seas we are discovering a dark and hidden world

Where strange creatures lurk and have adapted themselves to this hostile environment

With God we cannot plumb the depth of His grace and mercy

There is mystery in His design and execution of His plans and purposes which are too deep for us to comprehend

“of the riches”

“Ploutos” meaning **“wealth”** loosely based on the verb **“to flow”**

the basic sense is **“spilling over with goodness”**

Isn't that wonderfully descriptive of whom God is and what God does?

This wealth or riches can be physical, spiritual or moral

(For God this is apparent in all three)

In his prayer from the book of Ephesians Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts may be opened to these riches

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, Eph 1:18 NIV

We see Gods riches of His salvation through the eyes of our spirit

God desires that we know these riches – Although they are too numerous for us to ever fully grasp

“both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

“Sopia & gnois” meaning **“wisdom and knowledge”**

The sum total of all there is to think

This is Gods knowledge of **all** things

Who is perfectly able to order **all** events

Whilst thinking on this I considered how computers have evolved from the earliest models which filled a room to something small enough to place in the palm of one's hand

However, even if all the computers in the world were put together and multiplied a million times over

They still would only be able to retain a fraction of the wisdom and knowledge of God

“How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”

“Anexeraunetos” meaning **“unsearchable”** – the root word is a verb meaning to track (i.e. as in to track & hunt down an animal)

We cannot comprehend or track Gods judgment by our own logic or understanding

Our minds are finite – His is not!

Anexichistos meaning much the same as the above word

This word is not found outside of the Bible or Bible related literature

Can be translated “**unfathomable**”

Slide part 1 - Romans 11:34-35

Paul reinforces his worship by alluding to two Old Testament passages

The first is from *Isaiah 40:13*

The prophetic words of Isaiah are split into two main sections

The first section, from chapters one to thirty nine primarily speak of Gods judgment on sin

Chapters *forty* through to *sixty six* focus on the atonement for that sin and the resulting changes in people and the world system

Isaiah the poses the question:

Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?

It`s a no brainer really – **No one!**

Isaiah is simply asking the question to state how impossible that would be

It is foolishness to think that anything we may accomplish is achieved outside of Gods enabling

The sinful nature of fallen mankind is what breeds that kind of pride & arrogance

Without Jesus we are dead and lost in our sins, without hope and without God in this fallen world

You may be bright and have worked hard to develop the talents God has gifted you with

But it`s not your brilliance that has got you there it is Gods enabling

Questioning God and His ways through unbelief is futile

Slide part 2:

The second verse is a reference to *Job 41:11*

Most of us know the story of Jobs suffering and his friends who come to supposedly comfort him

The story concludes with Job being brought to the end of his understanding and meeting with the almighty God

He is not given all the answers as to why events happened as they did

Realising his error and lack of understanding, Job is humbled by the greatness of God

And does what is needful and appropriate in such an encounter
He worships God
Sometimes we have to be brought to the end of our understanding, *Pr 3:5-6*
Or to the end of our natural resources in order for us to grasp and see the
greatness of God

***When everything gets stripped away and all that is left is God;
It is in those moments that we realise God is all we need; halleluiah!***

We learn to put our trust in ***His*** unlimited resources
Jesus is Lord and Sovereign over every situation

Slide part 1: Romans 11:36

God is Himself all in all; the source, the means, and the end

From Him:

“For by Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” Col 1:16 NIV,

God created the known and yet unknown universe
He created the smallest, minuscule particles, which make up our DNA and the
world we see around us
Everything we see and everything which is invisible to the naked eye;
He created it!

God is the source of all that you and I need
He is the source of all wisdom, power, of comfort, peace and joy
We sing of Him as the almighty faithful provider, who meets our need
And that is what He is

But are you recognising God as your source for ***all*** your need?

Whatever that need may be

Are you drawing from His ***unlimited*** resources?

Everything we have,

Our job, our gifts, talents, our spouses, our friends;

Originates from God

The air we breathe, the ability to think, to create are all from Him

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, James 1:17

No one has ever had a truly original thought

That brilliant idea you had or the masterpiece you made originally came from
the mind of God

The ability to learn and understand is all from Him

Our responsibility, our service to Him is to take what we have and use it for His glory

Through Him

“Sustaining all things by his powerful word” *Hebrews 1:3b*

“For in him we live and move and have our being.” *Acts 17:28 NIV*

Through His power, wisdom and goodness, all things are directed and governed

In world events; in and through our lives, God is constantly moving, working to accomplish His will and purpose

Often we can look at our lives and the state of our world and ask

“Where is God in all this?”

Maybe the redundancy came unexpectedly or you didn't get the promotion or new job you were hoping for

You could be facing some form of sickness, or know someone close who is

You may be experiencing bereavement

And it's hard to make sense of anything due to the pain and feeling of loss

It is often through life's disappointments, tragedies even, that we encounter the sustaining power of God

The apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment him; *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

Some would argue that this was a physical ailment

But the terminology here of a thorn would suggest it was an out and out attack of the enemy to stop him in his tracks

Whenever thorn is mentioned in the Old Testament it is referring to a physical opponent

Paul preached the Gospel and people were getting saved, healed and delivered Satan and his kingdom were being threatened and so Satan would stir up the crowds to resist him and kill him if he could

Paul was in danger of dying everyday

Eventually, he pleaded with the Lord three times to take it away

The Lord answered him as he does to us in the midst of our struggles and trials

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”

He (Jesus) is able to sustain you and I in the hard places (as well as the pleasant)

He sustains us through His mighty power, and His all sufficient grace

To Him

To Him be the glory forever! Amen. *Romans 11:36b*

When you look at the vastness of the universe and the Earth's relation to it

You can ask why was all this created, what is its purpose?

The only logical conclusion is that it was created simply and purely to display the magnificence and glory of God

Even when we look at ourselves we can at times ask, why am I here what is it all about?

God views you and me as His masterpiece, the pinnacle of His creation

We are fearfully and wonderfully made in His image

When we look to Him, for all he is and all he has done, we can do nothing else but give Him praise and glory!

For all the great things He has done

“The leading principle of all is, that God is the source of all good; that in fallen man there is neither merit nor ability; that salvation, consequently, is all of grace, as well sanctification as pardon, as well election as eternal glory. For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory for ever. Amen.”