

Rom 11:33-36 ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

We are considering this passage under three clearly definable headings.

1. The incomprehensible character and infinite excellence of the divine nature of God. Ver. 33
2. God's absolute perfection in, of and to Himself. vers. 34, 35.
3. God is the source, the means, and the end of all things. Ver. 35

Charles Hodge wrote concerning this passage:

Few passages, even in the Scriptures, are to be compared with this, in the force with which it presents the idea that **God is all, and man is nothing.** – (Emphasis Mine)

Now, God's judgments and ways are the means whereby He upholds all things by the word of His power. This includes His sovereign rule over the whole of creation. Sometimes He rules by means above and beyond the laws of nature; such as at the Red Sea, or delivering the three faithful Hebrew men in the midst of the fiery furnace, or extending the daylight hours for Joshua. Or simply, the manner in which He rules over the day to day providence in nature itself; such as when He sends the rain on the just and unjust, feeds the creatures in their several habitats and the regular order of day and night. How He does all this, that is, sets in order the world about us and the galaxies of the heavens above is a mystery beyond our comprehension. We simply know that God is in control of the whole of His creation.

However, in particular, God's judgments and ways are the means whereby He has provided the way of salvation for His elect which Paul has so wonderfully presented in this epistle to the Romans. And this would include the manner in which He has chosen those whom He would save and those whom he will cast off. It is not for us to question His judgments for God has revealed to us through His prophet Moses that the secret things belong to Him and the revealed things to us. (Dt. 29:29) He has graciously revealed His salvation, and has opened the hearts of His elect to receive that salvation by faith in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not know why nor how He opened our hearts and granted to us the gift of faith and repentance we can only rejoice with Paul, when he wrote, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." 2 Tim 1:12

Paul thus having stated the fact that God's judgments and ways are past finding out we come to the 2nd part of the passage before us; God's absolute perfection in, of and to Himself which Paul examines under three probing questions. 1. Who has known the mind of the Lord? 2. Who has become His counselor? And 3. Who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid him? We shall use Paul's three searching questions for our outline of the message this morning.

A. Who has known the mind of the Lord?

1. Another way we can ask this question is who has known what God designed to do, and the reasons of his decrees? - (Dt. 29:29)
2. God Himself has made it clear that He is totally independent in His eternal decrees and actions when He questioned Job.

Job 38:4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

3. What great intelligence was necessary in the Creator to provide man with a mind that is able to think and reason.

Job 38:36 Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

4. The ability to speak without having to think how to form the words with lips and tongue.
 - a. To change that thought process in a moment of time as at the tower of Babel, where they not only spoke a new language but immediately thought in that language.
 - b. Or grant to man an ability to speak perfectly in another language as on the Day of Pentecost.
5. One can only conclude that God in His purposes and wisdom is equally and perfectly independent, totally sufficient in, of and to Himself to do whatsoever He pleases.
 - a. All the nations of the earth are as nothing to Him.

Isa 40:15,17 ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; ¹⁷ All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

- b. God is infinitely exalted above the understanding, aid, or rebellion of His creatures.

*Prov 21:30 There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel **against the LORD.***

Job 9:12 If He takes away, who can hinder Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You doing?'

Isa 43:13 Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

- c. Even the angels of heaven desire to 'look into the works' of their Creator to make new acquisition of knowledge. - 1 Peter 1:12 "things which angels desire to look into".

B. Who has become His counselor?

1. Here the questions of God to Job are most fitting.

- a. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? - *Job 38:3-4*
- b. It is as if God was saying, I don't remember having to ask you how to lay the foundations of the earth.
- c. Or when God asked Job in essence if he would do things differently.

*Job 40:6-8 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me: "**Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?**"*

Job 40:1-2 Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said: "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

2. Here we need to remember Job's excellent response. – I put my hands over my mouth.
3. In closing of this second question – Who has become His counselor I think it good to let Isaiah finish the thought for us.

Isa 40:13-14 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?

C. And the final question before us - Who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid him?

1. Or we may ask, to whom is God indebted?
2. God has no need to ask anything of us or any of His creatures.

Ps 50:12 "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.

Job 41:11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

3. Whereas exactly the opposite is true of us.
4. Even the worship we give Him is not necessary to His glory, nor does it add anything to His glory or greatness.

Acts 17:25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and have our being

CONCLUSION: The majesty of God stands alone in the universe.

Truly God is sufficient in, of and to Himself

The creature can do nothing to place God under obligation

Whereas we stand in need of Him for our very being, life, and eternal hope.

I will simply close with these glorious words of the Apostle Paul.

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