

# **Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation**

## **56- “All to the Glory of God, Part 1”**

### **Romans 11:33-36**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Nov. 8, 2015*

In **Romans 11:33-36** we find 4 of the richest verses in all the Bible that remind us that the great end of all sound doctrine is worship!

#### **I. Your Doctrine Should Never just Feed Your Lust for Debate but Should Leave You Speechless at Points and Should Launch You into Worship on a Regular Basis**

It's as if Paul cannot continue his train of doctrinal thought because his heart and emotions have interrupted him.

**Romans 11:33-36** “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! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

This is an appropriate response to what Paul's been writing because the truth of WHO God is and WHAT He does should always elicit a response!

“I ask myself, I ask you: where is the ‘Oh!’ in our response to God. Where is the intensity of awe and amazement that a true knowledge of the Holy One of Israel ought to evoke? Much of the church has lost the “Oh!” in her relationship with and response to God. Do you want to know why so many believers are muddling through the Christian life, just trying to stay out of hell and to get by with as little discomfort and risk as possible? It's because when they think of God, instead of ‘Oh!’ their response is a ‘Who?’ of ignorance, or a ‘Huh?’ of disinterest, or a ‘So what?’ of indifference. It isn't exclamatory excitement but a religious snore that emanates from the soul of so many in the church today when the character of God is at issue.” Sam Storms, *Pleasures Evermore*, p. 108-109

If you want to see your love for God, the Gospel, and His Kingdom get super-charged in your life, then put God back in the center of it all, where He really is whether you acknowledge it or not!

Your heart was designed to run on high-octane fuel. That takes God at the center of it. Some of you been trying to live your Christian life on the diluted versions of God and the Gospel and it's why you can't ACCELERATE and really go hard after the things of God.

“Where does a true comprehension of the doctrines of grace lead us? To our knees in worship. Perhaps one reason why so few are motivated to worship God with fervor is that we have reduced God to a slightly larger version of ourselves. He can be comprehended by OUR logic. He works within the bounds of OUR rules and reasons. He is so much like us that we see no real reason to worship Him. It is pathetic but true...

What practical difference does the doctrine of election make? It will make you into a worshiper. When you come to realize that the God who is there is not subject to your desires, that He is sovereign over your eternity, and when you realize the greatness of His mercy and grace, you will begin to long for genuine worship, worship that prostrates YOU and exalts God... Your soul will crave and demand worship that is God-centered, that is filled with high praise... When once you grasp the greatness of the sovereign God, your worship will be transformed because YOU will be transformed hereafter to have the perspective of one who lives on his knees." *When Grace Comes Home*, Terry L. Johnson, P. 27 & 28

## **II. Your Doctrine Should Never be so Filled with Explanations that it Makes No Room for a Revelation of Who God Is that Pushes Outside the Borders of What You Can Comprehend**

Don't try to erase all mystery and solve every conundrum. Those places are in the Bible by design. Those are places to bow, be silent and worship. Don't try to explain them away.

"Whenever I come upon a mystery in the Bible I consider that God has set a little altar there for me to kneel and worship." –Charles Spurgeon

- Does your theology make any room for ALTARS and places to worship or is it just filled with WORDS and all your clever explanations?

Look at some of the words and phrases in this passage that really are the raw materials for building an altar where we bow and worship.

### **A. v. 33 "Depth"**

Some of it's unreachable. We're left with questions but that's OK because we know there are depths of God we cannot understand because God is infinite and we are finite.

When Paul writes about depth, he's also saying that God is at the bottom of all things. He's the foundation of all things so there's no explanation beneath God. No matter how deep you go there is only God.

### **B. "Riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God"**

Part of what makes God so rich is the infinite wisdom and knowledge that He has.

Generally knowledge is awareness of facts and wisdom is awareness of how to use those facts for good goals. God is rich in both!

“He knows all recorded facts—all the facts stored in all the computers and all the books in all the libraries in the world. But vastly more than that, he knows all events at the macro level—all that happens on earth and in the atmosphere and in all the farthest reaches of space in every galaxy and star and planet. And all events at the micro level—all that happens in molecules and atoms and electrons and protons and neutrons and quarks. He knows all their movements and every location and every condition of every particle of the universe at every nano-second of time. And he knows all events that happen in human minds and wills—all volitional and emotional and spiritual events—all thoughts and choices and feelings.

And that includes past, present, and future. He knows every event that has ever happened and ever will happen at every level of existence: physical, mental, volitional. And he knows how all facts and all events, of every kind, relate to each other and affect each other. When one event happens, he not only sees it, but he sees the eternal chain of effects that flow from it and from all the billions of events that are unleashed by every other event. He knows all this without the slightest strain on his mind. That is what it means to be God.” John Piper, sermon ‘The Deep Riches and Wisdom and Knowledge of God’ March 21, 2004, Desiring God Ministries

### C. “Unsearchable” and “Past finding out”

Job taught us you’re never seeing more than just the ‘fringes’ of His ways!

**Job 26:14** “Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him...”

“If you have never stood before God and been confused, then probably you have never stood before God.” *A Scandalous Freedom*, Steve Brown, p. 161

Remember: God doesn’t owe us any explanations! And He doesn’t always give us what we want but He always gives us what we need.

What we really need is a vision of God – WHO He is and WHAT He’s done – that’s big enough to stir worship! The overflow of worship helps us step up to the commands God gives us.

### III. Your Doctrine – When It’s Fully Rolled Out – Should Never Have Anyone or Anything Else at the Center of It than God Himself

**Romans 11:36** leaves no doubt as to who should be on center stage in the drama of redemption and the focus of our doctrine – God and God alone!

**v. 36** “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”