

**Grace, mercy and peace are your in abundance through faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! <sup>34</sup> “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” <sup>35</sup> “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.  
**This is God’s Word.**

**Dear Fellow Redeemed Children of God,**

In our Old Testament lesson for today Moses needs God’s reassurance in the plan to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses’ 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with Pharaoh ended in disaster. Instead of letting the people go, Pharaoh increased their work load to an almost impossible level and now, not only was Pharaoh was against Moses, but the people also blamed Moses for all their troubles. The result is that Moses is second guessing God and what God has told him to do. Sometimes we do the same thing – especially when we try to follow God’s Word and things don’t seem to go so well. At times, we too, try to second guess God. Given the kind of year we have had, a lot of that may have been happening in the last few months.

Paul in this portion of scripture before us this morning is trying to encourage us by telling us, **“Don’t Second Guess God.”** And why not? Paul points out that, **“God’s Wiser than We Are,”** **“God’s Ways are Unsearchable,”** and **“God’s Gifts to Us are Plentiful.”**

**I.** Paul begins this portion of scripture with the word “Oh.” It’s a word of admiration and respect and he uses it in reference to God. It’s like saying, “Oh, Wow,” or “Oh, Look.” And then, just think about God for a minute in this way. First think about, **“The depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”**

Have you ever thought about the wisdom of God? Have you ever thought about the depth of God’s knowledge? Take Creation for example. God created the world in 6 days in a very systematic fashion. We not only see his power but also how he is a God of order and we see the depth of his knowledge as every little detail of this majestic earth is taken care off.

Then we have all the systems God put in place: The solar system. The laws of nature. All the complex systems that make up the human body and the bodies of animals and organisms. The complex ways in which vegetation grows and reproduces. Mankind knows a lot but there is so much that we don’t know and probably never will but God knows the details of everything because he created it. Paul encourages us to think about these things as God’s people have throughout the ages.

The writer of Psalm 92 wrote, **“How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!”** (Psalm 92:5). Job says this about God, **“He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.”** (Job 5:9) King Solomon, a man of great wisdom, said, **“then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise**

**man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.”** (Ecclesiastes 8:17) And **Isaiah**, the prophet who prophesied so much about our suffering Savior hundreds of years before he came into this world wrote, **“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.”** (Isaiah 40:28).

There are more Old Testament references to the wisdom and knowledge of God. As we consider all that God has done we, too, have to stand in awe of his power and wisdom.

Yet, Satan loves to get us to question what God has done and said. One of Satan’s favorite questions is, “Did God really.....?” Yes, God really did create the world. Yes, God also continues to preserve it. Yes, God really sent his Son to pay for my sins. Yes, God’s Word is really the truth. Yes, I will never fully understand God and his knowledge and his wisdom, but I trust in him completely.

Even though we might waver at times and have our doubts, God never wavers. His wisdom and love for us at times goes beyond our understanding but we believe and trust in him because of the gift of faith he has given us. Faith to help us see and understand his love – faith to help us see and understand just, **“How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”** <sup>34</sup> **“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”**

**II.** In the last 6 months, have you ever asked yourself, “What is God doing?” or “Why is he allowing this?” I wish I could give you an answer but Paul reminds us that none of us knows the mind of the Lord. God doesn’t come to us and ask us, “What do you think?” That is sometimes hard for us to deal with because we think we are pretty smart folks but take a moment to think about some of the things God has done.

In his Word, he points out how we have sinned and fallen short of all of his expectations. The sin of Adam and Eve has brought death and trouble into this world. Human logic would say to wipe it all out and start over but God said, “I will send my Son to step in and do what you can’t do yourselves.” I will send my Son to take the punishment you deserve and I will send the Holy Spirit with the gift of faith to bring you life and salvation.” No man could ever come up with that plan of salvation.

Matter of fact, every religion mankind has ever devised, has always had mankind doing all the work to appease a threatening God. But God’s plan has his Son doing all the work to make us acceptable in his sight.

**“Who has known the mind of the Lord?”** Certainly not me or anyone else. He comes to us through his Word with some doctrines that are hard to understand, like the Trinity and the two natures of Christ and more, but even with those he has to give us faith to help us believe and understand what he is telling us.

**“Or who has been his counselor?”** We like to tell God how to help us but he doesn’t need our help or our advice because once again, his wisdom is so much greater than ours.

So what do we do? The only way we can have any idea of God's will for our lives is to be in the Word. There God unfolds before us how he wants us to live our lives and when we fall short, he picks us up, forgives us and continues to guide us. Not because of anything we do, but all because of what he has already done for us through the work of his Son and the work of the Holy Spirit. So there can be only one response to God's Love and God's Word.

**III. Paul encourages us with these words, "For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."**

God has everything that we need and knows everything that we need. He has graciously given us the gift of faith. (Ephesians 2:8-9) He has promised to be with us as we walk through life. (Matthew 28:20). He has promised a place in heaven for all believers (John 14:1-4) and he continues to come to us through his Word to bring us strength when we are weak, peace when we are full of anxiety and comfort when we are hurting.

There can be only one response – a response of thanksgiving – To God be the Glory for great things he has done for you and for me and great things he continues to do for us and for all of his people.

Throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> 11 chapters of Romans Paul points out what we deserve from God and how God brings us his undeserved love instead. This week, take some time to read through those verses. And re-read these verses that end Romans chapter 11 as they remind you of God's great wisdom and power and love for us. A love and wisdom that go beyond our understanding at times but a love and wisdom that we trust through faith. May our response to God's love always be: To God be the glory. Amen.