

Series: Things Which Become Sound Doctrine

# WHO HATH KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD ROMANS 11:33-36

Text: Romans 11:34

## ***Romans 11:34***

*<sup>34</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*

Introduction:

Romans is a powerful book, filled with deep doctrinal truth for the believer.

It is a book that must be studied and discerned carefully though.

Much of the book of Romans was written to Israel.

Many have gotten in trouble doctrinally by applying passages that were clearly intended for Israel to the church.

In Romans chapters 9 and 10, Paul expressed his concern for Israel, his desire for their salvation, and his sorrow for their rejection of the gospel.

In chapter 11 it is addressed to the Hebrew people as well.

Note verse 1:

**Romans 11:1**

*<sup>1</sup> I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

Paul reveals that God has not forsaken His people, and many of them will turn to Christ as the Messiah and be saved, especially during the Great Tribulation which is a great study, but one for another day.

So, one might ask, if this passage was written to the Jews, what is the benefit of it for us?

Well, we can't look at it from a personal perspective, but we can glean much beneficial truth from a practical perspective.

Much of the Bible is overlooked, and even avoided, because some believe it has no benefit for the church, but remember what 2 Timothy 3:16 says:

**2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Our text verses are dealing with the divine character of God and His character never changes, whether He is dealing with Jews or Gentiles.

Last week we considered the Omnipresence of God.

Today we will consider Omniscience of God.

If we could understand all the things of God as God understands them, we would be as God Himself.

Omniscience means infinite knowledge or knowing all things, all wise.

Note:

Sermon Content:

## 1. GOD IS MARVELOUS (VS. 33)

### ***Romans 11:33***

*<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

A. In His Wisdom (vs. 33a)

### ***Romans 11:33***

***<sup>33</sup> O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and***

**knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his  
judgments, and his ways past finding out!**

I have said many times that a lot of people are looking for direction in their lives, but sadly, few ever look to the source of real truth and wisdom.

There are none who possess the wisdom or mind of God. Who better to seek than our Creator and Lord?

His wisdom is beyond our ability to comprehend; it is unfathomable!

Note these verses:

***Psalm 8:3-4***

*<sup>3</sup> When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

*<sup>4</sup> What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

***Psalm 40:12***

*<sup>12</sup> For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*

**Psalm 139:14**

*<sup>14</sup> I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

With his wisdom we also note his:

- His Justification That God Provides

The plan of God for the salvation demonstrates God's infinite knowledge and His ability to provide this salvation to all who will receive it. He planned salvation so simple that an undeserving sinner can stand before God as if he had never sinned. Thank God Jesus paid it all!

- His Justice That God Renders

The apostle has been dealing in the greatest part of this chapter, upon reconciling the rejection of the Jews with the divine goodness of God.

In chapters 9—11 we see a defense of God's righteousness in his dealings with the Jews.

Paul praises God's wisdom in designing history as he has so that salvation would be available to all peoples, through the rejection of Israel.

God has set them aside so that through the death of His son on the cross, He has made salvation available to the whole world.

### B. In His Ways (vs. 33b)

God's judgments and ways are past finding out. His judgments reveal a "judicial term, referring to the sentence of a judge in a court of law."

His ways speak of "the journey traveled; course of conduct; manner of thinking, feeling, deciding."

These are unsearchable; that is they cannot be tracked. It has the idea of "one who leaves no footprints as he goes."

That is not to say that we cannot know God or fellowship with Him, but that we cannot comprehend all that He is!

His holiness and very essence is beyond human ability to obtain or predict.

Note these verses:

#### ***Job 5:9***

*<sup>9</sup> Which doeth great things and unsearchable;  
marvellous things without number:*

**Job 37:23**

*<sup>23</sup> Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict.*

**Psalm 77:19**

*<sup>19</sup> Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.*

**Psalm 92:5**

*<sup>5</sup> O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.*

Not only is God Marvelous but note also:

## **2. GOD IS MATCHLESS (VS. 34-35)**

**Romans 11:34-35**

*<sup>34</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? <sup>35</sup> Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*

There are none who compare to our God; there are none like Him. We discover that He is matchless:

A. In His Counsel (vs. 34)

**Romans 11:34**

*<sup>34</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*

Who has given the Lord advice? With whom did He consult prior to creation?

Whom does He go to for counsel when we bring our troubles before Him?

Clearly the answer is no one! He possesses all wisdom and knowledge.

We will never face anything that He doesn't understand.

He will never have to seek the approval or counsel of others in regard to our needs!

**1 Corinthians 2:16**

*<sup>16</sup> For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

Not only is God Matchless in His Counsel but also:

B. In His Compensation (vs. 35)

**Romans 11:35**

*<sup>35</sup> Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*

Isn't that an amazing thought? God has borrowed from no one. He is indebted to no one.



All that God performed and created, He did according to His own ability and power.

In the beginning God . . .

It is humbling to think that all that we have, and even those things that we offer back unto the Lord are from Him!

We give Him nothing that He hasn't provided for us initially.

**1 Corinthians 8:6**

*<sup>6</sup> But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

**Colossians 1:17**

*<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Not only is God Marvelous and Matchless but note lastly:

### 3. GOD IS MERCIFUL (VS. 36)

#### **Romans 11:36**

*<sup>36</sup> For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

This verse really puts things into perspective.

It reveals that we are totally dependent upon the Lord.

Without Him we would be able to do nothing and we would surely perish.

I stand amazed at the mercy that God has for those who are undeserving.

Notice:

A. He Is Our Source – “For of Him...Are All Things

That is difficult for us to accept at times.

In our flesh we are prone to pride and self-reliance.

In reality all that we have or ever hope to have is of the Lord. All that we possess and have the ability to perform comes from His divine source.

Note Colossians 1:16

## **Colossians 1:16**

<sup>16</sup> *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Not only is He our Source but also:

### B. He Is Our Strength

## **Romans 11:36**

<sup>36</sup> **For** of him, and **through him**, and to him, **are all things**: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Ponder that thought and let it sink in.

These words mean exactly what they say.

All things are through Him.

We are nothing in and of ourselves.

All that we possess, all that we accomplish, the souls that are saved, all the blessings that we enjoy; all of it comes from God and through God!

The health that we enjoy, the job that we have to provide for our families, the homes, food, and

provision for our daily lives, the sun we see and the breath we breathe, all comes by and through the Lord.

Without His help each and every moment that we live, we would be able to do nothing.

**Acts 17:28**

*<sup>28</sup> For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*

**John 15:5**

*<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

**Philippians 4:13**

*<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Not only is He our Source and Strength but also:

C. He Is Our Substance

**Romans 11:36**

*<sup>36</sup> **For** of him, and through him, and **to him, are all things**: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

This certainly reflects the idea that we spoke of earlier in regard to all that we have to offer the Lord comes from Him initially.

Had He not blessed us in the first place, we would have nothing to offer Him in return.

That is a profound truth, but that must not be all that we take from this passage.

All things are to Him. That doesn't say "some things", or even "most things", but all things.

That is a sobering thought.

Every aspect of our lives are to be lived unto the Lord.

***Romans 14:7-8***

*<sup>7</sup> For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. <sup>8</sup> For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.*

***Colossians 3:23***

*<sup>23</sup> And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

Not only is He our Source, Strength and Substance but also:

## D. He Is the Sole One

### **Romans 11:36**

<sup>36</sup> *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: **to whom be glory for ever.** Amen.*

There are no gods beside our God. To Him is glory and honor that is reserved for no other.

### **Psalms 71:19**

<sup>19</sup> *Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!*

### **1 Timothy 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Revelation 4:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

### **Revelation 19:6**

<sup>6</sup> *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of*

*mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

These verses not only challenge us but they also comfort us.

We serve the true and living God, One whose depth is unsearchable, His ways past finding out.

Close:

There is much about the Lord that I cannot comprehend, but I have decided to trust in Him and follow Him wherever He leads.

He that has the power to save us has the power to keep and sustain us.

What a mighty God we serve!

God has been merciful and gracious to each of us.

Every blessing that we enjoy, He has given.

Do you know Him as your personal Savior?

Do you recognize He is the source of all, and He is worthy of our loyalty, honor and praise.