

## An Awesome God - Romans 11:33-36

*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

### I. Encountering God inspires His praise.

*v. 33 "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"*

- This is his response to a thorough consideration of God.
- Praise is the normal response to an encounter with God.
- In heaven, praising God is the normal state of affairs.

### II. Encountering God discloses His transcendence.

*v. 35b "How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"*

- We think that He is somehow like us.
- We are like God in some ways, but we cannot even begin to be compared with Him.
- God is beyond our comprehension.
- God transcends not only our understanding of Him but our experience of Him.

*Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

### III. Encountering God reveals His sufficiency.

*v. 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"*

- God is sufficient in Himself.
- He needs nothing from us and owes nothing to us.

*Isaiah 40:13-14 "Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?"*

- God's sufficiency also makes possible our provision.

### IV. Encountering God declares His centrality.

*v. 36 "For from him and through him and to him are all things."*

- God is the originator, sustainer, and goal of all things.
- He created all, maintains all, and will receive all back to Himself.

*Colossians 1:16-17 "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. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

- Without God this entire universe would fly apart.

### V. Encountering God demands His glory.

*v. 36b "To him be the glory forever! Amen."*

- To encounter God is to understand that He is the only one in the universe to whom all glory is due.

*Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

- We have the privilege to give glory to God here and now.

We need to spend time considering the greatness of our awesome God. We must meditate upon the implications of His existence. We must consider the wonderful nature of His plan of salvation. We must ponder His nature, character, and attributes. We must desire to experience His power and His grace. We must focus on God because He should be our focus.