

"The Doxology of Romans 11"

Romans 11:33-36

Introduction: For the past 26 studies we have looked at the details of Romans 9-11. It was in these chapters that we learned of God's relationship with Israel in the past (chapter 9), present (chapter 10) and the future (chapter 11). We have learned that God has not cast away the people of Israel. Today there is a remnant of Jews that are being saved as they are turning to Jesus Christ and Paul was a part of that remnant. We learned that at this present time God is gathering a people for His name from among the Gentiles. The Jews had rejected their Messiah and therefore God has turned to the Gentiles. At this present time the Jews and the Gentiles who come to Jesus become members of the body of Jesus Christ. We now make up a group that had not existed ever before.

Ephesians 2:15

¹⁵ *Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

This "one new man" is the church or the body of Jesus Christ. The church did not exist before Pentecost nor was it known of before Pentecost.

Ephesians 3:6-11

⁶ *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

⁷ *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.*

⁸ *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*

⁹ *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

¹⁰ *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

¹¹ *According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

God is building the church now and will continue to do so until the "Fulness of the Gentiles".

Romans 11:25-26

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

²⁶ And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

The "Fulness of the Gentiles" will be complete when the last person of the body of Christ is saved. (This is not to be confused with "The Times of the Gentiles"). Then the church will be raptured away and in the seven years of the Tribulation period God will then turn and work with the Nation of Israel. In the Tribulation many Jews will perish but one third will be saved and they will make up the Nation of Israel at the end of the Tribulation and so all Israel that goes into the earthly Kingdom will be saved. It will be to these people of Israel who make up the Nation that God will fulfill His promised Covenants. Israel will see the fulfillment of the Abrahamic, the Land, the Davidic and the New Covenant.

Daniel 9:22-24

²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.

²³ At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel was told that 70 weeks of years were determined upon HIS people who were the Jews. Sixty-nine weeks of years were completed when Jesus died. Then began the Church Age which we are now in. After the Church Age is complete/Fulness of the Gentiles then the last week of years/the Tribulation will begin and that will be the 70th week which Daniel wrote about.

This is what Paul understood and so as he came to the end of these three wonderful chapters he then breaks into a doxology of praise and that is what we are going to look at in our study tonight.

I. The Declarations

Notice Romans 11:33a

As Paul comes to the end of this section and he recalls how the Lord has worked the events of history together and will work the events of the future together he then declares the riches of God. There are two thoughts here that Paul is focused upon and they are the wisdom and the knowledge of God. Let me explain to you the difference in these two. KNOWLEDGE is just what it says it is. It is having the facts about the situation. God is all knowing and there is not one situation in which He does not have all the facts. He does not need to search out the evidence of any situation and then make a determination. He already knows every situation before it ever arises. WISDOM is the ability to use the KNOWLEDGE in the proper way.

Now let me put this verse into the proper context then we can make an application for our lives. Before the foundation of the world God knew that Israel would turn from Him and reject her Messiah. In His wisdom He made the covenants unconditional that way Israel would not perish but instead their existence and the fulfillment of the covenants would rest upon His faithfulness. In His wisdom He would use their rejection to turn to the Gentiles to gather a people for Himself/ a bride for His Son. In His wisdom and knowledge God also knew that when the Gentiles came to Jesus Christ to be saved and they were then given the spiritual blessings, this would then provoke many of the Jews to jealously and they then would desire to have what the Gentiles possessed and a remnant would come to Jesus Christ. So, in His wisdom and knowledge God would use Israel's disobedience for His glory. In the future God wisdom and knowledge will also be demonstrated as He brings the seven years of Tribulation upon the earth to purge the earth of the unsaved and then gives to Jesus His Kingdom in which He will reign for 1000 years. In the Tribulation God's wisdom and knowledge will also be displayed as He brings one third of the Nation of Israel through the Tribulation and then fulfills through them the great covenants.

In all of this. That is from the fall of man Satan has tried his best to outmaneuver God, but he has failed, and he will fail in every effort. The riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God cannot be matched even by Satan. In the Tribulation Satan will do his best to destroy the Nation of Israel so that Jesus will not return, and he can then rule the world forever. But his efforts will all fall short.

I have only touched the surface of what was on the Apostle Paul's mind as he penned these words. Along with these thoughts on Israel, Paul also had in mind all the theology he taught us in Romans 1-11.

Application:

We are commanded to go to God for the wisdom we need for life.

James 1:1-7

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

⁵ **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.**

⁶ *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

⁷ *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

We all face situations in which we have the facts, but we do not have the wisdom to know what we are supposed to do. But here in James we see that the wisdom of God is made available to us whenever we need it. God desires that we ask Him for wisdom and when He gives us His wisdom we are to walk by faith in His wisdom.

Notice Romans 11:33b

The word "unsearchable" here is the same word we looked at in Ephesians 3 and it means "untrackable". God's judgments and His ways are passed finding out.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*

⁹ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

We all have tried to figure out how God is going to work out His will in a situation. We have all been in situations where we thought we knew what God would do only to see Him work in a way in which we had never thought about. As I read this doxology I am reminded that it is not for me to try to figure out what God is going to do but it is for me to trust Him knowing that He knows the situation far better than I do.

II. The Questions

Notice Romans 11:34

There are two questions raised here:

1. Who has known the mind of the Lord?

The answer to this question is, "Nobody!" There are people who think they know the mind of the Lord, but the Truth is that the only thing we can know about God is what He reveals to us.

There are people who boast of who they know in this world. They may know a member of congress, or they may know a senator, and there are some who know the President and the Vice President. But these people are as dust.

Isaiah 40:15

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance:

Let us notice the words of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 9:23-24

²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

2. Who has been His counselor?

Again, the answer is, "Nobody!" God has no counselors because He is all knowing. There is no one who can advise God. There are times when all of us have tried. We have faced situations and we prayed for God to do this or that and so we did our best to advise and to counsel Him. But God knows best, and He carries out His will.

Notice Romans 11:35

The Lord is a debtor to no man. No man has given to God something that He had not had previously.

Job 41:11

¹¹ Who hath prevented [first given] me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.

Notice the words of A. W. Tozer - "An elementary but correct way to think of God is as the One Who contains all, Who gives all that is given, but Who Himself can receive nothing that He has not first given."

Whatever we give to God is something we previously received from Him. The last verse emphasizes this Truth.

Notice Romans 11:36

Before we consider this verse let me remind you that this verse does not just apply to what Paul has taught concerning Israel, but it sweeps back over all of chapters 1-11. It has in mind the 4 major doctrines which Paul has taught us in these chapters. The Doctrines of Condemnation, Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

There are 3 main points to see in verse 36 pertaining to God.

1. ALL Things are OF Him.

This means that He is the **SOURCE** of ALL the previous doctrines and ALL goodness and blessings in our lives.

2. ALL Things are THROUGH Him.

This means that God is the One who carries out His plans. Everything works **THROUGH** Him by His mighty power.

Psalm 147:5

⁵ *Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*

3. ALL Things are TO Him.

All that God does is to bring glory to Himself.

Ephesians 1:3, 6

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

Conclusion: In all of this God still allows man to exercise his free will.

Psalm 104:31

³¹ *The glory of the LORD shall endure for ever: the LORD shall rejoice in his works.*