

NEW FAITH CHURCH

CONVEYING *the* LIGHT CLAIM IT. FOCUS IT. SPREAD IT. BE IT.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE GOD ROMANS 11:33-36

Part I

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Romans 11:33-36 is a bridge between two major sections regarding doctrine and duty. After teaching the doctrine of justification by faith alone and before exhorting his readers to live as sacrifices for God, Paul writes a doxology in praise to God.

I. Remember the wonder of God's greatness.

A. Verse 36 says, "*Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*"

1. In Romans 1-11, Paul gives the clearest explanation of the gospel anywhere.
2. Paul's mind is now empty, but his heart is full.

B. God's riches are deep.

1. What does it mean to be rich?
2. Romans 10:12-13 says, "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
3. There is no need to live in sin, guilt, worry, doubt, or fear.

C. God's wisdom is deep.

1. Knowledge is what you know. Wisdom is what you do with what you know; it's the right implementation of knowledge.
2. In Scripture, wisdom is spiritual, not intellectual.
3. **How does one become wise?**
4. True wisdom comes from God, who always accomplishes the proper end through the proper means.

D. God is also too high for you to figure out.

1. Verse 33 says, "*Oh, the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*"
2. This exclamation declares that the God who is infinitely deep is also transcendently high.
3. Paul continues, saying God's judgments are unsearchable.

4. Yet the context here speaks of the judgments of God in a broader sense: **to God's decrees or decisions.**
5. We do not know what God is up to when he seems to punish a person.
6. But we also do not know what God is up to when he seems to bless a person.
7. God's gracious judgments are unsearchable.
8. God's ways are the path or road he travels to accomplish his judgments.
9. Psalm 77:19 says, "*Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.*";
10. Psalm 103:7 says, "*He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.*";
11. God only made his ways known to Moses;

II. Accept the truth of God's greatness.

- A. The attributes of God are categorized two ways: communicable attributes and incommunicable attributes. Communicable attributes are those we can share with God, as creatures made in his image.
 1. For instance, the attributes mentioned in verse 33—wisdom and knowledge—are communicable attributes.
 2. Verses 34-35 declare these incommunicable attributes.
 3. God does not need our advice.
 4. No one knows the mind of God.

B. How can we know the Mind of God

1. There is a sense in which we can know the mind of God through God's word.
2. We can know the mind of God through God's Spirit.
3. Yet we cannot know the mind of God directly or as he does.