

SUNDAY, October 5th, 2025



Romans 11:36

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A few years ago we took a group from the church to a conference out west and while we were there we visited the Grand Canyon. This picture shows a group of people (not our group), looking over the canyon.

When you arrive it's a strange feeling because we were walking from the parking lot toward the canyon and you can't see anything. It's doesn't rise up to be seen for miles around like mountains do, it just goes down, down, down.

So we were just walking on flat, level ground, and then rather suddenly we came to the edge and in that instant you realize you're looking out across the canyon and the other side is 5 miles away.

And you start looking down and then you feel a little queezy as you realize that the bottom of the canyon is 5 miles down and it's wider (wide arms) than your eyes can take in. It's massive. It goes deeper and wider than you can even begin to see.

And as we were standing on the rim of the canyon, in that moment, no one said, "Wow! Look how big I am compared to the Grand Canyon!" Instead, all of us felt very small, very humbled, awestruck at the immense site our eyes were taking in, and our response instead was,

"Wow, what a mighty God we serve! Look what He made!" And we found that our words weren't enough to describe all that we were seeing and experiencing.

And that is exactly what we are seeing Paul doing in this passage of Scripture. For eleven chapters Paul has been delving into the depths and the mysteries of justification by faith in Jesus Christ alone.

He's been writing about God's wondrous plan of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles, and that in spite of Israel's rejection of Christ as their saving Messiah, the time will come in the future when they finally embrace Him and turn to Him for salvation.

In the meantime, God is drawing the Gentiles – all the peoples of the world – to Himself, giving them the opportunity to be part of His eternal kingdom through salvation in His Son Jesus through the witness and testimony of the church – us, all current believers who know and love Christ by faith.

Paul is about to turn the page in his letter as He completes the doctrinal portion and provide the practical portion of how we live in light of God's amazing plan of salvation, but before He does...

He becomes overwhelmed by God Himself, and by everything God has done and shown Him about His love and His salvation for all peoples, and how awesome it is that God through His Son Jesus would allow us the opportunity to be part of His kingdom now and forever.

And his emotions at all of this spiritual truth bubble up inside him and he can't himself but let it out by writing a short hymn of praise giving glory the God as the Supreme, Sovereign of the universe, the author of salvation, and the giver of everything that we possess in and through Christ.

And as if standing on the edge of a grand canyon of spiritual truth, looking out with his spiritual eyes gazing upon the immensity of our great God Himself, Paul can't help but exclaim in verse 33...(READ)

Paul directs our attention to the fact that God is so vast (wide arms), His wisdom and His knowledge are so deep and far reaching that there is no end to them.

His judgments are unsearchable, and His ways are untraceable (footprints that are untrackable like a hunter tracking an animal) – meaning, no matter how much of the Bible and Christian literature that you may study over the course of your lifetime, God has only clued us in to a small portion of who He is.

We know enough to be able to have a basic understanding of who He is, who we are compared to Him and how much He loves us and wants us to be part of His eternal kingdom. But everything in this book, the Bible is only scratching the surface.

There's not a human being alive or who has ever lived that could ever in 1 lifetime even if they dedicated themselves to the constant study of the Bible could ever fully understand not only what's in here the Bible, but all the wondrous mysteries of who God is because the human mind is incapable of such understanding.

AND, this inspired book is only a fraction of what there is to know about our great God. One of the awesome features about being in heaven is that for all eternity we will be constantly learning and experiencing more and more about our Sovereign God...

And there will NEVER come a moment in all eternity when we have learned all there is to know about Him and we can stop learning and experiencing the vastness of His perfect character and personhood. Let that sink in!!!

(Slide)

“God is supreme. He is the greatest of all beings. He is the first and the last. There is none like Him. He is infinite, eternal and unchanging in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.”

Pastor John Piper

(Slide)

“He does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.”

Job 5:9

“Can you fathom the depths of God or discover the limits of the Almighty?”

Job 11:7

Here is something that might help us capture this truth in our minds and hearts...

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The top of the iceberg is what we can learn from God's Word and God has seen fit that this is sufficient for what we need in this life. But again, one of the realities of heaven...

Is that the rest of all of who God is what we will have all eternity to learn and experience and the bottom half of that knowledge will never be exhausted. It has no end, it is limitless because our God is limitless!!!

Now Paul poses three rhetorical questions all designed to showcase God and exalt who He is. The first two are in verse 34... (READ)

Paul is referencing Isaiah 40:13...

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"Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or who gave him counsel?"

Isaiah 40:13

The rhetorical answer to both questions Paul is looking for is, NO ONE! No one can read or know the mind of God, and no one can give Him counsel because God is already omniscient – He knows everything.

Then he asks a third question in verse 35...(READ)

Again, Paul uses Old Testament Scripture to back up His understanding of the greatness of God...

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“Everything under heaven belongs to me.” Job 41:11

“The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the Lord; for he laid its foundation on the seas and established it on the rivers.” Psalm 24:1-2

Again, the answer to this third question is, No one. There’s not a person alive or who has ever lived that predates God. There’s not a person alive or who has ever lived that could God something to God that God hasn’t first already given to them.

God is supremely sovereign, self-sufficient, and owes nothing to no one. It is for these reasons and many more that Paul broke out into this hymn of praise to God. And he concludes his hymn with his last words in verse 36 providing four reasons why God deserves our praise...

(Slide) God Deserves our Praise Because...

1. He is the source of everything – Rom. 11:36a (From him...)

The Scriptures are replete with the truth that everything comes from God, His is the creator, the author, and originator, and owner of everything. Look at your notes....

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

“Let the whole earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spoke, and it came into being; he commanded, and it came into existence.” Psalm 33:8-9

“This is what the Lord your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: ‘I am the Lord, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by myself; who alone spread out the earth.’ Isaiah 44:24

“For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities...” Colossians 1:16a

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands.” Psalm 19:1

“The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours. The world and everything in it – you founded them.” Psalm 89:11

This is so good because when we understand and believe that our God is the source of everything, then it strengthens our faith to believe all His promises to us, to provide for us and meet all our needs and to deliver us in times of trouble and take us home to be with Him in heaven.

Soon we'll be returning to our study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and we're going to see where Jesus promises to take care of us and tells us not to worry but to trust in Him because since he takes care of the birds and the flowers, and all creation, how much more will He provide for and take care of us?

It is for this reason that God is the source of everything, that He deserves our praise today and every day of our lives.

(Slide) God Deserves our Praise Because...

2. He is the sustainer of everything – Rom. 11:36b (through him...)

NOTES:

“He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.”

Col. 1:17

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” Heb. 1:3

Not only does everything exist because of God, He’s the source of everything, but He is also the sustainer of everything.

Contrary to some people’s belief, God didn’t just create everything and then leave it alone to evolve into whatever it would evolve into. God is both the original designer as well as the continual caretaker of His creation.

To sustain something means to give it strength, protection, encouragement, and comfort. And that’s what God does, not only for all creation, but especially for you and I, his children.

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” Psalm 55:22

“God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my life.” Psalm 54:4

“The Lord is my helper...” Psalm 118:7a

“For he has satisfied the thirsty and filled the hungry with good things.”

Psalm 107:9

“For I am the Lord your God, who holds your right hand, who says to you,

‘Do not fear, I will help you.’

Isaiah 41:13

“He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, I will never be shaken.” Psalm 62:2

“Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before him.

God is our refuge.” Psalm 62:8

Some of you might be carrying a burden this morning. Someone here might need God’s help today. Some of you have needs that you need Him to meet.

Some of you are facing difficult and surmounting situations, you need God to help you, to be your rock and stronghold and refuge. I remind you today that GOD is your sustainer. Turn to Him. Run to Him. Reach out to Him in prayer. Rely on Him alone.

God deserves our praise today because if it wasn’t for Him, we wouldn’t be here. Who knows where we’d be? He’s there all the time for us to be our refuge, our strength, our rock, our stronghold, to hold our hand...

To banish our fear, to satisfy us with good things, He's the one who helps us, who carries our burdens, who sustains us, in short, He's always there for you and He's always there for me.

God is worthy of our praise not only because He is the source of everything and the sustainer of everything, but number three...

(Slide) God Deserves our Praise Because...

3. He is the end of everything – Rom. 11:36c (to him...)

NOTES:

“And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

“If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11

“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” 1 Cor. 10:31

Along with everything that God has created, we are all here to bring HIM glory. That makes God the reason for all things, the means of all things, and the end of all things. It's all about Him.

The more we make of God in and through our lives while we live here on earth, the more fulfilled we'll be, the happier we'll be and the more joyful we'll be and the more glory He'll receive.

God wants us to live for Him, for His purposes and His plans. Ever heard the phrase, "Get a life!"? Well guess what? If you know Christ as your Savior, you already have a life – a life and plan to go along with your life – that God wants you to fulfill. You don't need to seek your own plans, only His!!!

"You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures." Psalm 16:11

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!" Psalm 37:4

"God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you. I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water. I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. My lips will glorify you because your faithful love is better than life." Psalm 63:1-3

Which brings us to the final phrase...

(Slide) God Deserves our Praise Because...

4. He is worthy to receive the glory for everything – Rom. 11:36d

God is the source of everything, the sustainer of everything, and the end of everything. And He does what He does for His glory and for that He is worthy of all our praise.

NOTES:

“Then I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” Ex. 14:4

“To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 3:21

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Tim. 1:17

“The twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say, ‘Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.’ Rev. 4:10-11

God wants all you do to bring glory. This verse is our theme verse for this ministry year. We want God to be glorified in all we do as a church and to do all for His glory and His alone.

VERSE ACTIONS: From him, through him, and to Him are all things, to him be the glory...

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THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE:

“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11:36