Sermon Title – God is... Incomprehensible Sermon Text – Romans 11:33 & selected texts

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!"

<u>"Oh..."</u> – A word, an expression, of surprise... wonder... amazement... When was the last time you responded to God in such ways?

Too often we try to put God into a box of our own <u>limited</u> understanding!
Our human minds cannot contain Him, nor comprehend Him fully!

God's <u>identity</u> is not limited by our human capacity to understand Him! Even our own imaginations are bound by what our minds can conceive of!

Oh... God is infinitely more vast than what we could ever <u>imagine!</u>

Psalm 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God, & the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

"the depth of the riches..." – You can't put a price tag, a net worth on God!

He has infinite worth - All the riches & possessions in all of creation are His!

Psalm 89:11 – "The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them."

Psalm 50:10-12 - He can't be bribed... bought... compensated... He is God!

To be "rich" is to have more than enough, an abundance, an overflow! The riches of God is like the ocean – it is vast, its depths unattainable, its tides constantly overflowing! All we can do is stand in <u>awe and wonder of Him!</u>

"and wisdom..." – Wisdom is putting knowledge and experience into action!

- God in His wisdom chose to create, & He spoke the world into existence!
- God created with purpose, & He declared the end from the beginning!
- God's plan was <u>redemptive</u>, defying all logic, but perfectly effectual!

1 Corinthians 2:16 – "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?" His wisdom is beyond measure b/c His knowledge knows no bounds!

"and knowledge of God..." - Who could know more than the One who created all things... who knit us together in our mother's womb... the One who was, & is, & is to come? All this knowledge is beyond our comprehension!

"How <u>unsearchable</u> are his judgments..." - If you read the verses that follow our memory verse for this week you will see just how unsearchable His judgments truly are! Romans 11:34-36... "To Him be glory forever. Amen."

The word "glory" is defined by a "High renown or honor won by notable achievements... Having magnificence or great beauty!" What better word?

The Psalmist recognized this truth about God & His judgments - *Psalm 119:* 66-68 - "Teach me good judgment & knowledge... You are good & do good..."

So too did John - 1 John 1:5 - "God is light, & in Him is no darkness at all."

"His paths beyond tracing out!" – To comprehend someone is to know them fully, to understand them, & come to expect certain things from them because of the mental picture we've constructed in our minds of them!

At every turn, God defies our human ability to capture Him!

Isaiah 55:8-9 – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways & my thoughts than your thoughts."

This is why God gave the 2nd Commandment – Make no images of God! Whenever we start to think we know Him, & His ways, we diminish Him!

This is why God responded to <u>Job</u> the way He did in **Job 38:1-4**, when Job questioned and probed God about the purpose behind his sufferings!

This is why Jesus rebuked <u>Peter</u> in **Matthew 16:23**, when Peter thought he had the things of God in mind when he told Jesus not to go to Jerusalem!

This is why Jesus had to correct his <u>disciples</u> in **John 9:1-3** about the man born blind. They thought they knew how God worked, but they didn't!

This is why <u>John's</u> vision in **Revelation 1:9-18**, is beyond our ability to comprehend! All he could do was compare what he saw to things he could comprehend, but the culmination of it all was beyond all comprehension!

When we start to think that we have God figured out, that is when we can know with certainty that we understand Him wrongly! When we think we know exactly what He is doing, be prepared to be surprised, b/c His ways are beyond us! Our God is an incomprehensible being, & yet we can know Him!

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