

## Context

- 1] Order = Ch 1-8 - the Gospel; Ch 9-11 - God and the Jews; Ch 12-16 – the Christian life
- 2] So far –
  - a) The mystery of Israel (9:15)
  - b) The sovereignty of God (9:6-29),
  - c) The responsibility of Israel (9:30-10:4);
  - d) The way of salvation (10:5-21);
  - e) Israel's rejection not final (11:1-10)
  - f) The privilege of the Gentiles (11:11-24)
  - g) Israel's final inclusion (11:25-32)
  - h) Wonder and praise (11:33-36)

## Why does Paul burst into praise here?

- 1] Only letter of Paul which he breaks into a 'doxology' of God in the middle.
- 2] He has often spoken of doctrine (cf chs 1-8) without a 'doxology'
- 3] The 'trigger' for it here has been his contemplation of the amazing purposes of God in election and His commitment to His promises to the forefathers of Israel cf (11:28b)

**His choice** *'to them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh is the Christ who is over all, blessed for ever. Amen' (9:5)*

**His grace** *"so too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace" (11:6)*

**His plan** *"how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree" (11:24)*

**His love** *"they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers" 11:28)*

**His purpose** *"God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all" (11:32)*

## Wonder at God (33)

1] Oh

*Is an emotional response*

*\*Look to God and appreciate Him\**

2] The depths of riches and wisdom and knowledge of God  
*Cf Gk depth - 'bathos' means 'immeasurable, incalculable'*

*Cf riches of his glory (9:23)*

*Nb wisdom and knowledge of God (Col 2:3)*

*Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1Cor 1:24)*

*\*God is rich in glory\**

*\*God is perfectly wise\**

3] How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways

*Judgments just and true (Rev 19:2)*

*My ways are not your ways (Is 55:8)*

*I am the way the truth and the life (Jn 14:6)*

*The unchangeable God – "God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change His mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does He promise and then not fulfil (Nu.23:19)*

*\*God knows absolutely everything\**

*\*Acknowledge and submit to His infinitely superior ways"*

## His Sovereignty (34,35)

1] Who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counsellor

*Nb only other use of the Word in the NT - Member of the council (Lk 23:50)*

*Jesus is the wonderful counsellor (Is 9:7)*

*Acknowledge that you cannot know God's mind\**

2] or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid

*Cf there is a remnant chosen by grace, or it is by **grace**, it is no longer on the basis of works otherwise grace would no longer be **grace** (11:6,7)*

*Who has given to me that I should repay him (Job 41:11)*

*For by works of the Law, no human being will be justified (Rmns 3:20)*

*By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of you own doing; it is the **gift** of God, so that no one can boast (Eph 2:8,9)*

*... nor is He served by human hands as though he needed anything (Acts 17:25)*

*\*Don't try and give 'things' to God \**

## **The reason ... ('for')(36)**

1] for

a) from Him, and

*\*GRACE God is the source all that is good \**

b) through Him,

*cf. **Through him** we have also gained access by faith (5:2)*

*We are more than conquerors **through him** who loved us (8:37)*

*He sustains all things by His powerful word (Heb 1:3)*

*\*GRACE God sustains all that is good \**

c) and to Him

*There is one God, the Father, for whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist (1 Cor 8:6)*

2] are all things

*Nb In him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)*

*\*Believe in Him\**

*\*Believe that All thing were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made\**

3] To him be glory for ever.

*Glory belongs to the Father and the Son (Jn 17:1-5)*

*God receives the glory for all that is good*

*God is beyond time and secures all things*

*Give him all the Glory*

4] Amen

*Nb let it be*

**Summary** *God knows best. (33a)*

*We cannot understand him or give anything to him (33b-35)*

*He is all in all, and all glory is His (36)*

**Main point** *God is totally beyond our understanding and alone is worthy of all glory –that's it!*

**Key Verse** *To Him be glory for ever. Amen (36b)*

## **Conclusion**

1] Humble yourselves before the Lord that in due time he may lift you up (James 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6)

2] Note - My glory I will not give to another (Is 48:11)