

Speaking to the soul



Worshipping God

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen. Romans 11:33-36

Paul has spent the last three chapters agonising over the issue of his people, the Jews. He is desperately keen that they should follow Christ and receive the gift of salvation, but he also acknowledges that most of them have rejected the offer of new life in Jesus.

I love the way that Paul ends this part of the letter. He does so in worship, celebrating the greatness of God's riches, wisdom and knowledge. In the previous chapters he has given the best of his mind to setting out the dilemmas and his thinking about the situation. But, at the end of the day, he knows the limits of his understanding are very real, and he rests in the fact that God's ways are infinitely beyond our ways. He uses verses from Isaiah 40 to acknowledge that there will never come a time when we are called upon to give God advice, and no one will ever be able to outgive God.

We all live with many mysteries in this life. However hard we think things through, there will come a time when we have to face up to the fact that we haven't got all of the answers. Whether you are wanting to explain the wonders of a sunset, the beauty of a flower or the miracle of life, you will never arrive at a complete explanation. At that point, you will need to come to God in worship because, in his greatness, he is worthy of all our praise.

The same is true if you reflect on the suffering of innocent people in the world, the injustices that so many endure or the cruelty that blights so many lives. It is important for us to apply the best of our efforts to these situations, but our thinking must finally lead us to worship a God whose love, mercy and grace are infinitely beyond anything that we

could ever achieve. As you reflect on the wonders, mysteries and challenges of life today be sure to come before God in worship and praise.

QUESTION

For what specific reason are you worshipping God today?

PRAYER

Almighty God, I worship you. Amen

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