***Romans 11:33-36 33Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34“For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?” 35“Or who has first given to Him  
And it shall be repaid to him?” 36For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.***

Oh the depth of the riches of God – the riches of wisdom and the riches of knowledge. Here we see Paul making an exclamation of praise to and about God. Paul is exclaiming in praise to what he said earlier in the chapter when he revealed God’s election of Grace. He is exclaiming as his heart celebrates what he proclaims in Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.* Who can grasp the concept of God loving us so much, while we were still in rebellion against Him, that He would send His only Son to save us by the election of Grace and not by works. Paul is celebrating, exclaiming, proclaiming… and we must do the same each and every day.

Verse 33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!* The mystery of the riches of God. One of the problems with believers is that we have lost the wonder, the awe, the reverence, the terror of God. Let’s agree on a secret this morning… whatever we think we know about God is nothing compared to God we serve. The depth of His wisdom is beyond anything we can grasp. Isaiah 55:8-9 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.* ***9*** *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”* The mystery of His knowledge eludes us. His judgements and ways – the decisions He makes and the ways that He chooses are so deeply detailed that we cannot understand. Only in this knowledge can we claim peace in Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.* It’s only in this trust that we can receive a cancer diagnosis and be resolute in God… see the death of our loved one and stay resolute in God… see things we find repulsive happening all around us and stay resolute in God… knowing that His wisdom, His knowledge is so deep that, though we don’t comprehend, we can completely trust His judgements and His ways, no matter what they may look like.

Verses 34 & 35 *“For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?” 35“Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?”* Paul reaches into Isaiah and Job here. Isaiah 40:13 *Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him?* Of course, we know that God is God. He is Alpha and Omega, Beginning and Ending. No one has ever counseled the Almighty or directed His Spirit, though many of us have sinned trying. In Job 41:11 we read *Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.* Anything we have God gave us. Everything under heaven – Psalm 50:12 *“If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.* What do we have to offer except our free will and humble submission and worship to Him? The world is God’s and the fullness thereof… what can we offer? Romans 12:1 gives us that answer - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* We are to become a living sacrifice to our God that elected us by His Grace, Who’s wisdom and knowledge and judgements and ways are beyond our comprehension, Who has no peer, no teacher, Who owns it all and owes nothing.

Verse 36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.* Not only does God own it all… but it all originated in Him and through Him to return to Him. This is reminiscent of John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* Christ made it all and will return to rule it all. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!* Paul is overcome by God’s Grace! He sees how undeserving and unworthy he is and the only reasonable service he can offer to the God Who is unsearchable is his body, his mind, his worship, his all. In Mark 12:30, Jesus says *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.* Paul agrees, and so must we, this is OUR only reasonable answer to the gift of God’s amazing Grace.

Are we celebrating God’s amazing Grace? Are we crying out in adoration of the Lord? Have we given Him the only reasonable offering we can give? To Him who gave His all for us, have we given our all for Him? I had a friend years ago who would say, “I’m searching this old junk drawer I call my mind for the answer.” When she couldn’t remember, she’d say – it’s lost in the junk drawer. We waste our time searching our junk drawer for the Keys to the Kingdom. The Keys are not to be found within our own understanding, but the Keys are to be found in our whole-hearted and laser focused pursuit of God, no matter where He leads. How will you pursue the God that elected you by His Grace this week?