

I. Introduction: What is God's primary goal?

II. God's understanding is perfect and incomprehensible. v. 34

A. God is omniscient. He knows all things.

1. He has perfect insight into the essence of everything. He. 4:13 Is. 40:27-28
Ps. 139:1f 94:11 Lu. 16:15 12:6-7
2. God is immutable. He never learns. Heb. 1:12 6:17-18 13:8 Mal. 3:6 Ex. 3:14
I Sam. 15:29 Js. 1:17 Ps. 102:26-28 Jer. 31:3
3. How does God know all things? 8:28 Eph. 1:11 Isa. 46:10
4. Believe it or not, some "evangelicals" today deny the omniscience of God.
 - a. They claim God faces a certain amount of uncertainty about the future, because He has created beings whose choices He cannot know in advance.
 - b. God cannot create a being which would diminish His knowledge and power.
 - c. God knows all events with certainty. 9:17 Isa. 46:9-10 Acts 2:23 4:28
Luke 22:22 Pr. 21:1 Mark 14:21

B. God is all wise.

1. God's perfect wisdom informs His purposes and His accomplishment of them.
2. God's plan is the best of all possible plans. 8:28 16:27
3. God's wisdom is displayed in creation and providence. 1:20 Ps. 19
4. God's wisdom is most gloriously displayed in His plan of redemption. Rom. 1-11
I Co. 2:7 Eph. 1:8 3:10
5. Christ Himself is the wisdom of God. Col. 2:2-3 Rev. 5:12 I Co. 1:18f Prov. 8

C. God's ways are beyond our comprehension. Re. 15:3 Eph. 3:8 Job 11:7 37:5

1. God has decreed all that was, is, and will be. Eph. 1:11
2. Because we are finite creatures whose understanding is clouded by sin, we cannot comprehend God's actions. 8:7 Ecc. 8:17
3. God's way of salvation is different from any way man would devise. Isa. 55:6-9

D. God's wisdom and knowledge are rich and deep. Eph. 3:18 1:7-8 II Co. 8:9

1. These are not merely dry and abstract truths, but glorious realities.
2. God has been rich in mercy to unworthy sinners. 11:30-32,12 2:4 9:23 Eph. 2:4
3. The knowledge of God is comforting and encouraging. 8:28
 - a. He knows the plans of our enemies, and how to thwart them.
 - b. He knows the difficulties in our lives, and how to help us.
 - c. He knows our future and how to guide us through it.
 - d. You can trust God to work out the ends and the means perfectly.
 - e. He notices the good you do for Him. Mt. 6:4
 - f. He knows you exactly as you are, yet He still loves you.
4. There is no true wisdom and knowledge except in God. Prov. 9:10

III. God is infinitely above mankind. v. 34-35

A. You cannot fully know the mind of God. v. 34a Isa. 40:13,21,18

1. God has revealed some things about Himself to us. Dt. 29:29 I Co. 2:14
2. We can't fully fathom what God has revealed to us. Ecc. 3:11
3. God has hidden some things from us. Deut. 29:29
4. It is dangerous to go beyond what God has revealed about Himself.

- B. You certainly can't offer Him your wisdom. v. 34b Isa. 40:13 I Co. 2:16
1. We are the ones who need counsel. Pr. 11:14
 2. Because we can't grasp God's mind, we are in no position to advise Him as to how to run His affairs. He. 6:17
 3. Remember How great He is. Nothing compares to Him. Isa. 40:12-31

- C. He will never owe you anything (riches). v. 35 Job. 41:11
1. We are the ones who are dependent.
 2. God is absolutely self-sufficient. He has no needs. Ps. 50:10-13 Acts 17:24-25,28
Isa. 40:28,18-20,25 Ex. 3:14
 3. No-one can complain against God for not having received his due reward. Job 42
 4. You can never obligate God by your works or your faith.

IV. God is the Alpha (beginning) and the Omega (end) of all things. v. 36 I Co. 8:6

- A. All things have proceeded *from* Him. He is the originator of all things. I Co. 8:6
1. God alone is eternal and self-existent. Gen. 1:1 John 1:1 5:26 Rev. 1:4,8
I Tim. 1:17 Ps. 102:26-27 90:1-6 II Pe. 3:8 Eph. 3:21 Job 36:26
 2. He is the Creator of all things. Col. 1:16 Gen. 1:1f John 1:3
 3. He owns all things. Gen. 14:19,22 Ps. 24:1 50:10
 4. He is also the Originator of the New Creation: the church. Col. 1:18

- B. All things exist *through* Him (providence). Acts 17:28 Col. 1:17 I Cor. 8:6 Heb. 2:10
1. He is omnipresent. Jer. 23:23-24 Ps. 139:1f Isa. 66:1 I Kings. 8:27
 2. He sustains and governs His creation (providence). Da. 2:21 4:34-35 Ps. 104:28-31

- C. All things exist *for* Him. He is the goal of all things. I Co. 8:6 Col. 2:16b Heb. 2:10
Rev. 1:8 21:6 22:13
1. Nothing can be properly understood without reference to Him.
 2. The ultimate purpose of everything and everyone is to bring glory to God.
Pr. 16:4 John 16:4-5 I Co. 10:31

V. Conclusion: To Him be the glory forever. Amen. v. 36b Rev. 4:1

- A. Which system of doctrine best declares God's glory? I Co. 4:7 Is. 42:8 Ps.
- B. Which method of worship best reflects the true character of God?
- C. Are you a worshiper of God?

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. True or false
 - a. God cannot lie.
 - b. God keeps getting better and better.
 - c. God is as big as the universe.
 - d. God never learns anything.
 - e. God created mankind because He was lonely.
 - f. God is unable to foreknow the free acts of His creatures.
 - g. When we glorify God we make Him more glorious.
2. Describe God's attribute of knowledge.
3. How does God know all things?
4. Describe God's attribute of wisdom.
5. What is the chief end of man?
6. What is the purpose of missions and evangelism?
7. On what basis should you evaluate a worship service?