**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Text:** Romans 11:33-36

**Theme:**  A spectacular view!

 On our YouTube page is a video of a drone flying over our church and school. I was amazed when I saw it. It is a breathtaking view of the buildings, grounds, surrounding properties and countryside. It feels as if you are a bird flying over the area and looking down from above. As the saying goes; “a bird’s eye view”.

 A view like that lets you see things you would have missed at ground level. You get the whole picture, the grand view, and it is spectacular.

 Our Text for today gives us a view. We get a view from above, one could say, from God himself! A bird’s eye view of our God. He shares it with us. We here on ground level cannot really see or understand who God is. But today, in his word he gives us a glimpse. He lets us fly over and see who he is. Paul gives us a grand and **spectacular, view of God.**

 33Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments?

and how untraceable his ways!

34“For who has known the mind of the Lord,

or who has been his adviser?”

35“Or who has first given to God

that he will be repaid?”

36For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

 Our text for today, yes, let me say this again. This time I will put the emphasis on the word “Oh.” “**OH!**” **the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.**” You see Paul is not using the word oh to introduce something he had forgotten to say. As we would when we say, “**Oh, I almost forgot**.” He is using this word **“Oh”** to proclaim loudly and clearly that this is something grand, spectacular, almost indescribable, **the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God.**

“That is really deep”, the saying goes! We here people say this when a statement is made that implies something more than just the words spoken. Take for example these statements; “**There is an ocean of silence between us… and I am drowning in it.” “Some things scratch the surface while others strike at your soul.”** There is more to. More there!

 “**Oh, the DEPTHS of the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of our God.** Our God is deep. He is very deep. The Greek word for deep is bathos. A bathysphere is small submarine used to explore the deepest ocean depths. God is so deep, so very deep. He shows it in the riches of his wisdom and knowledge. There are things so deep about our God that our human minds just cannot understand them. Daniel 2:21,22 says “How unsearchable his judgments and his paths beyond tracing out. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” Our God is deep. He reveals deep and hidden things about himself. Did you hear that? This is deep! He knows what lies in darkness. He knows the deep and hidden things about us! Our secret sins he knows them! Listen to this. Hebrews 4:12-13 **For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.  Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

 A well-known theologian C. W. Lewis wrote an essay called ‘**Is Theology Poetry?**’ It was originally presented it in 1944 at an Oxford debating society. There was a movement then, and seems to be resurging today, that claims that God, and the study about God, (Theology) is purely a human artform. It is not a beautiful thought. A deep thought. It is a tragic and ugly thought. The riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God revealed in Scripture are not a human art form, and biblical theology is not a poetic product of human imagination. When Paul says, “Oh the depth!” he means there is something there. God has revealed himself in a spectacular way. He gives us everything we need to know. Here is a quote from Lewis; ***I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because of it, I see everything else.***” C. W. Lewis

**Now, that is deep!** There is more. God gives us a spectacular view.

**How unsearchable are his judgments?**

**and how untraceable his ways!**

**34“For who has known the mind of the Lord,**

**or who has been his adviser?”**

**35“Or who has first given to God**

**that he will be repaid?”**

 We deserve nothing from God. He owes us nothing. He is God! On the contrary, we actually owe him! We deserve something. We deserve punishment….. yes for those sins, yes even the ones we try to hide!

 But listen to this; **36For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.** Now that is deep!

Martin Luther said of the Bible that it is so deep in some places an elephant can swim in it, and so shallow in other places a child can wade in it. Every time we open the Bible we peer into the deep things of God. Some parts are hard to understand but others are so simple such as “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **Oh, the depths of the RICHES of the wisdom and knowledge of God. Our God is rich. He is so rich.**

 May the gift of the Son and the work he has done, move you to stand in awe, as you take in this spectacular view! God is the beginning, the middle, and the end of everything……you are his, you are saved!

If I was to be asked what the most, profound, grand, spectacular, amazing, deep thing there is about God that I have found, I would simply say: “Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.” **Feel free to quote me!**

**Amen**