

The Depth of God

Oh, the depth of the riches ¹both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

That is the statement of the latter verses of Romans 11. It is as if Paul, the writer of Romans, is looking back over what God had inspired him to write. He sees the sinfulness of mankind. He sees the greatness of God's grace. He sees the depths of God's love in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. I have to wonder, did Paul ponder all these things, and the longer he pondered, the more mysterious and how mind shattering these things were to him as a mere mortal man.

Such is what happens when we are exposed the depth that is of God.

I want to begin a new journey through one of the Gospels, the one that was written to the world. In this gospel, we will find something for those who have been Christ followers for a short time or a long time. In this gospel, we will find something for those who have not yet begun that journey of following Christ. Perhaps by looking within the veil of this adventure of following Christ, you too may be given the ability to understand the nature of our sin, the forgiveness from God through Jesus, and commit your life to following Christ.

My Greek professor, Dr. Curtis Vaughn, spoke of this Gospel, it is deep enough for an elephant to swim, yet shallow enough for a baby to wade.

The Gospel is that of John.

The opening lines of this Gospel shows that what Dr. Vaughn said is true. What we find in these opening lines is the depth of God's existence, and the depth of God's love.

The verses we will consider are the opening verses, chapter 1, verses 1-5.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² ^[a]He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ^[b]comprehend it.

These five verses demonstrate how true Dr. Vaughn's words were regarding John. Yet, in that there is a message for us. Let's look at these two extremes. The one commonality that is found in both of these extremes is the profoundness that is God. He is beyond our comprehension. However, He is not beyond our reach, for we find in both that He reaches out to us before we reach out to Him.

The Depth of His Existence—God is God.

Isaiah 45:5, God says, "I am the Lord; there is no other. Beside me there is no God." God is who He is in all His glorious attributes and self-sufficiency. As we dwell on the fact that God is God, we will find ourselves very quickly overwhelmed by the profundity of His existence.

We find this to be true in the first 3 verses of John 1.

This is the Christmas story according to John. Let's walk through these verses.

In the beginning was the Word.

The Word is Jesus Christ. In the beginning of time, in the beginning the Word was in existence. What do we mean by "was?" Friday night, I was with Jane in a restaurant. I was not there before a specific time on Friday. I was not there after Friday night. There was a point in time I was at that restaurant. That is not how "was" is used here. In verse 1, "was" does not have the idea of a point of beginning. Was in this verse has the idea of always has been. Jesus is co-existent and co-eternal with God. He is not a created being.

A recent joint effort between Lifeway Research and Ligonier's ministry has produced a study that reveals what America believes about God, the Bible, and other truths related to the Christian faith. In this study, 53% of Americans believe Jesus was a created being. This phrase of verse 1 shows that belief to be wrong. Jesus is not a created being.

The Word was with God.

Someone may ask, "Were you alone on this day?" The answer may be, "No, I was with my dog." That statement could be true for a number of our folks. The answer could also be, "No I was with my husband or my wife." There is a difference between being with another person and being with another animal. When we are with another person, it means that there are two equal personal beings that can face one another and engage in an intelligent conversation. However, when you are with an animal of a different species than a human being, an intelligent conversation cannot happen. To say that the Word was with God is to say that God the Father and God the Son are two personal beings facing one another and engaging in intelligent conversation. God the Father and God the Son are two persons who are co-equal.

The Word was God.

John did not say, "The Word was divine." Another Greek word would be used other than what we find there. Certainly it is not that the Word was a god. That is further from the intent of what John wrote. The Word was God in essence. He is the exact nature and the exact representation for us as God. He is the Word, God become flesh in the form of a human.

All things were made by Him.

The "Him" refers back to the Word. Jesus is the agency through which creation came into being. All things were made by Him, through Him, and for Him. All things are created to glorify Him.

I have not gone very deep in what is here in these verses. When you think on these things, and reason them in your mind, you will see the depth of His existence. God is God.

If you have come to the point already where you are overwhelmed by what has already been said and shared, do not fear. That is perfectly normal. Even the greatest minds in the world have and had difficulty wrapping their minds completely around who God is.

"I'm not an atheist. I don't think I can call myself a pantheist. The problem involved is too vast for our limited minds. We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books, but doesn't know what it is. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws, but only dimly understand these laws." These are the words of Albert Einstein when asked about his view of God.

We must not isolate the depth of God's existence. To do so is to make the excuse that if God is so profound in His existence, He is off somewhere in the cosmic distance, and He cannot be approached. Such is not the case. We must not isolate the profoundness of God's existence so that we make Him only as a subject of academia.

There is a balance that is found in these verses.

The Depth of His Love—God is Good

⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [\[b\]](#)comprehend it.

In this we see the profundity of His love. The Light shines in the darkness. We are, by nature, of the darkness. We did not step into the Light. The Light shone on us in our darkness. Why did Light shine in darkness? His life was the Light of men. God reached into our darkness and revealed Himself through Jesus Christ. He revealed to us the darkness of our sin and our death. By faith, we receive Him and walk now in Light and His life. In that, God is love. His love is so profound, that it is a mystery. It is mind boggling.

God so loved the world that the Son, the only begotten, unique He gave, in order that the ones believing on Him will not perish but have everlasting life.

Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome, did not conquer, did overwhelm. That is the nature of darkness. It cannot conquer light. Light always conquers darkness. This is the victory that is ours in Christ Jesus.

It is God's love that is the doorway of entrance into a relationship with Him in Jesus Christ. He invites you to that today. It is His doing. He chooses you. Look down at verse 12-13.

¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, ¹³who were [\[u\]](#)born, not of [\[u\]](#)blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Just as we cannot isolate the depth of God's existence, we cannot isolate the depth of God's love and goodness. For when we do, we limit our experiences with God, and spiritual growth is stopped. To isolate the depth of God's existence without having the experience with the depth of His existence is to live in a shallow spiritual life.

There is a balance. Grow as a scholar in all that is God, but don't forget, you are still His child.

How do we navigate in both? The same way you get to know your best friend. We do so in the same way we get to know our spouse. It is through an everyday relationship with Him.

That passage of Isaiah 45, God also said, "I have girded you, equipped you, though you have not known me." That is the profundity of His love.

Years ago, we had a family who started visiting with us because of their child. Their child wanted to come here. A few weeks after their attendance, Billy Stephens and I went to visit with them. When we shared the gospel, the mother felt that she needed to know more about God than she did. She felt overwhelmed. I understood. I said, Okay. Keep coming and keep learning.

About four weeks later, we went back. She admitted that she had learned quite a bit, but still didn't know all there was to know of God.

Do you know God loves you by sending His Son?

Do you know He died for you to give you forgiveness of sin?

Do you believe that He can forgive you of your sins if you ask Him? Do you want to have eternal life? Yes. Yes. Yes. You know what you need to know. He loves you. She prayed to receive Christ a few moments later. After she surrendered to Christ, I can almost see the light bulb go on. She was then able to understand more of God, but was comfortable that she did not know everything.