

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

by Rev. G. Grant Verdoold
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Text:

“**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! **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?” **36** For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 33-36

The Hook:

Our text today comes out of some mighty prepositions: “of”, “Through”, and “to”, but it contains the loftiest of thought known to man!

Such a tremendous weight of meaning is concentrated here, that an archangel’s eloquence would fail to convey its teaching in all its glory to any finite mind, even if the heavenly seraphs were its hearers.

I will affirm here and now that there is no man or woman living now who can preach from this text a sermon worthy of it. No! For among all the sacred orators and pleaders for GOD, there never did live, nor will ever live, someone capable of reaching the height of the great argument contained in these mighty words! Our Great GOD alone is able to expound this verse, for only HE truly knows Himself! Only HE can worthily display and set forth HIS own wonderful perfections, for there is no sin in GOD! ““Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”” 1 Peter 2: 22, “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4: 15, “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14: 6. “There is no shadow of turning” with HIM!! James 1: 17. There is not even the slightest turning or variation in HIM!! “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” James 1: 17

GOD Himself is so amazing and all of HIS attributes; unchangeable in HIS being, wisdom, goodness, truth, justice and power are so Divine and Holy!! All of the attributes of Christ, as GOD and man, are at our disposal. All the fulness of the Godhead, whatever that marvellous term may comprehend, is ours to make us complete. “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;” Colossians 2:9

Now friends, arise and behold the LORD Jesus yoking the whole of HIS Divine Godhead to the chariot of salvation! How vast HIS grace, how firm HIS faithfulness, how unswerving HIS immutability, how infinite HIS power and how limitless HIS vast knowledge! Who can fathom HIS knowledge? ““For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”” Romans 11: 34, “Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him?” Isaiah 40: 13, “Who has preceded Me, that I should pay *him*? Everything under heaven is Mine.” Job 41: 11.

The Book: The Holy Doctrine

Let's read verse 36 of our text again. "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen."

This is my one and only point today. Let us put our whole heart and mind into this text this morning. Consider this doctrine! It is put forth by the Apostle Paul as a general principle that ALL THINGS COME FROM GOD!!

They are "**of**" HIM as their source.

They are "**through**" HIM as their means.

They are "**to**" HIM as their end

In taking this doctrine you will find that it applies to all things. Not just some, or even most things, but it applies to ALL things!

May The LORD, by HIS Holy Spirit, open the vast treasures of HIS grace at this moment and may our minds be renewed so that we may prove the good and perfect will of GOD. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12: 2. May you all be filled with spiritual knowledge and understanding. May "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints," Ephesians 1: 18. This is what is meant by "theology". Theology means the study of GOD. Theology should make us pant for the Word of GOD as the deer for the waters. "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God." Psalm 42: 1

Let us reflect upon the range of GOD's works in creation and providence.

In a time before all time, when there was no day but The Ancient of Days "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire:" Daniel 7: 9. (See POST NOTES, Vision of the Ancient of Days). This was a time when matter and created mind were alike, unborn and even time itself and space did not exist. Can you even imagine when there was no time? Can you envision when there was no space? Before all this our Great GOD existed, as perfect, glorious, blessed. and holy as HE is even now!! "And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "" Exodus 3: 14, "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but *by* My name, Lord, I was not known to them." Exodus 6: 3

There was no light, and yet The LORD Almighty dwelt in inexpressible, unapproachable light. "who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom *be* honor and everlasting power. Amen." 1 Timothy 6: 16, ""I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."" Revelation 22: 16.

There was no earth and yet HIS throne stood fast and firm. "Righteousness and justice *are* the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face." Psalm 89: 14. There were no heavens, and yet HIS marvellous, beautiful glory was unbounded and invincible. GOD,

The Almighty GOD, inhabited all of eternity in the infinite majesty and happiness of HIS self-contained greatness and glory, just as HE is today! "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel 2: 44

Now in light of all that consider, if the LORD, abiding in Holy Glory, should choose to create anything, the first thought and idea must come from HIM because there is no-one else to suggest it! So, all things in design come from HIM!! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" Romans 11: 34, "For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2: 16.

HIS eternal, unfathomable wisdom brought forth the perfect plan of creation! "26 This *is* the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, and this *is* the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. 27 For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul *it*? His hand *is* stretched out, and who will turn it back?" Isaiah 14: 26 & 27, (See Post Notes: Isaiah 46: 3-11), "The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations." Psalm 33: 11.

GOD ordained the pathway of every planet and the abode of every fixed star! "4 He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. 5 Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite." Psalm 147: 4 & 5, "Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The Lord of hosts *is* His name):" Jeremiah 31:35, "He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning And makes the day dark as night;

He calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth; The Lord *is* His name." Amos 5:8, "He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south;" Job 9:9, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job 38:7, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained," Psalm 8:3, "Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, " Psalm 19: 4, "You alone *are* the Lord; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You." Nehemiah 9:6, "When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth," Proverbs 8: 29, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding." Job 38: 4, "To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone," Job 38: 6, "Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; *When* I call to them, they stand up together." Isaiah 48:13, "*You who* laid the foundations of the earth, So *that* it should not be moved forever," Psalm 104:5, " And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good." Genesis 1: 25, "In whose hand *is* the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?" Job 12: 10, "For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;" 1 Timothy 4: 4, " And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings," Acts 17: 26, "To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck *what is* planted; 3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6

A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; **7** A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; **8** A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.” Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 8.

All this proves that Divine wisdom mapped this earth! It was not Rand-McNally. The Divine Architect fixed the gates of the morning and the doors of the shadow of death. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You *are* with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” Psalm 23: 4.

Even sin did not damage HIS infinite sovereignty. GOD permitted that black spot of sin to defile HIS perfect work. This is an amazing truth. If you get this, it will totally blow your mind!!

GOD permitted sin because HE knew that songs of everlasting triumph would rise up, cascading into Hallelujahs and praise to Himself, when in streams of HIS own blood, the incarnate deity would wash away every stain!! “” Colossians 1: 20, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” Ephesians 1: 7.

Glory to GOD forever! HE is able to keep from stumbling and present you faultless before the presence of HIS glory with exceeding joy! Jude 24: 7 You know that HE is just waiting to do this? HE is waiting with a smile on HIS face to lift you up!!

So, “through” HIM, as well as “of” HIM must all things be!!

There were no raw materials ready for The Creator’s hand! HE created the universe out of nothing! There was no rough matter that HE could fashion between HIS palms and launch the stars!! HE did not have a mine of unquarried matter to melt and purify in the furnace of HIS mighty power and hammer out on the anvil of HIS divine skill!

It is incredible! There was nothing, absolutely nothing, to begin with in the day of The LORD Almighty’s work! From the womb of omnipotence and power all things were born into being. “Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” Genesis 1: 3 HE spoke, and the heavens leapt into existence! “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1: 1, “The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*.” Psalm 95: 5, “You alone *are* the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.” Nehemiah 9: 6.

HE speaks again and whole worlds are birthed into being with divine wisdom and skill. “Through HIM were all things.” Romans 11: 36

From the highest archangel who sings praises in celestial notes, down to the cricket leaping on the earth, all things have their being through HIM. ““for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’” Acts 17: 28 The same divine finger points to the rainbow and the wings of the butterfly at the same time.

Let GOD withdraw the emanations of HIS Divine power and everything would melt away!!

If HE would shake the pillars of the world, the whole temple of creation falls to ruin! A dreary waste, a silent emptiness, a voiceless wilderness would be all that remains if GOD withdraws HIS power!! “For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 36

Finally, everything is “to” HIM! Absolutely everything is to HIM! Everything will praise the LORD! “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!” Psalm 150: 6. Everything will acknowledge the sovereignty of GOD and submit to the LORD! **10** “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2: 10 & 11. GOD so designed it!

GOD alone is wise, and all glory, majesty, dominion and power belong to HIM. “To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.” Jude 25, “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints!” Revelation 15: 3,

“To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”” Isaiah 61: 3.

That’s right! We are a planting of the LORD!! Hallelujah!!! This means, when the enemy is hissing in your ear, “God is overcome.” or “His plans are spoiled”, or even “His gospel is thrust in the mud.” or “The honour of His Son is stained.”, you have the power to get up and tell the enemy, “NO!!” Never!!” “You are defeated!!”

“For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 36. This is where the scripture has especially spoken to me this week. The assurance that GOD defeats our enemies! HE is always victorious! GOD’s weakest weakness is stronger than man, and even the foolishness of the Most High GOD is loftier and wiser than the wisest man. “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1: 25

The new heavens and the new earth shall ring with HIS praise, and we who shall sit down to read the record of HIS wonders shall say with Job, “Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.” Job 40: 4. Job fell on his face and repents, saying, “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose *of Yours* can be withheld from You.” Job 42: 2

When you think all is over, when the decline of Christianity is being heralded by many, GOD will triumph!!

My friends, one day, in the clear dazzling light of heaven, that every single page of human history, however stained by rampant human sin, everything will have something of GOD’s glory in it! From the very first human prayer to the very last mortal sigh, from the first note of infinite praise onward to the everlasting Hallelujahs, all things work together for the glory of GOD and have served HIS divine purposes!!! “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.” Romans 8: 28. “For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.” Romans 11: 36. Hallelujah!!!

The Took:

This is a doxology for our times! This shouts to us of a Holy Devotion! In the grand work of divine grace everything is “of Him and through Him and to Him” Romans 11:36.

The great plan of salvation was not drawn down by human fingers. 1 John 5: 11 & 12, Romans 5: 8, Ephesians 2: 8. No-one but GOD could have imagined a way of salvation so amazing such as the gospel presents! A way so just to GOD, and yet so safe to man. Think about this!! “**5** Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; **6** In

all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3: 5 & 6. Praise HIS Name!!!! "For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10: 13

The thought of divine substitution, and the sacrifice of GOD on man's behalf, Christ being The Lamb of GOD, becoming sin for us and then slain on our behalf is amazing!!! Christ died on Calvary's cross for us!!!! "that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5: 19, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1: 16

My friends, The LORD Almighty ordained the sacred hour when the great Promise Keeper would come. GOD ordained when Jesus Christ would appear in the fullness of time, where HE would be born, where the place would be, what death HE would die, when HE would arise again to conquer sin and death, and even what manner HE would ascend into heaven! "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." Galatians 4: 4 & 5. It was all "in HIM, of HIM and to HIM" Romans 11: 36. Who can be praised but GOD! Let HIM be extolled, world without end!!!! NOW!! And Forever!!!

The Apostle Paul puts his quill back in the ink bottle and falls on his knees. He can't help it! He MUST have a doxology, a liturgical expression of praise to GOD! He must sing out praise!

To GOD be glory forever!! Amen!! Oh, sacred moment, let us do the same. Let us imitate this holy devotion. "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen." Romans 11: 36. This should be the most important desire of any Christian!

My friends, in all afflictions, praise GOD! Out of the fires, let your songs go up! On your sick bed extol HIM! Dying, let HIM have your sweetest song! Let your shouts of victory in the combat with the evil-one go even higher still! Let this be your constant thought! "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen." Romans 11: 36.

Don't speak of GOD's glory with cold words. Don't think of it with a chilly heart.

Let this massage your soul and rise up within you! I must praise HIM!!

If I can't praise HIM where I am, I will break these chains and get to where I can praise HIM! I will run out into the streets and the fields to praise HIM!! I will praise HIM in the dark night hours and in the bright daylight!!

People, hear me! Let your praise grow! Let there be a growing desire to praise The One "For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen." Romans 11: 36.

You blessed HIM in your youth. Don't be content with such praises as you gave HIM then.

Has HE prospered you? Then give back to HIM and be thankful with a grateful heart! Praise HIM for each new experience and bigger faith!

Has your knowledge of HIM grown? Have you grown in faith? Praise HIM!!

Are you in happier times than you once had? Have you been restored from sickness? Has your sorrow been turned into peace and joy? Then give HIM more music!! Give HIM more praise!! Put more coals in your censor!! Put more sweet frankincense on the sinews of your heart and praise HIM!!!

Praise HIM with patience in your well-doing! Praise HIM with your perseverance in obeying your duty! Praise HIM with generosity in giving to HIS cause!! Praise HIM with boldness in your testimony and in love for HIS work!!

“For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.”!!!!!!! Romans 11: 36.

Post Notes:

Vision of the Ancient of Days

“**9** I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; **10** A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand-thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. **11** “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. Daniel 7: 9-11

“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I *am* the First and I *am* the Last; Besides Me *there is* no God.’” Isaiah 44:6,

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.” Psalm 90: 2,

“**14** His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **15** His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;” Revelation 1: 14 & 15

“**3** “Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld *by Me* from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: **4** Even to *your* old age, I *am* He, And *even* to gray hairs I will carry *you!* I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver *you*. **5** “To whom will you liken Me, and make *Me* equal and compare Me, that we should be alike? **6** They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. **7** They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it and set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though *one* cries out to it, yet it cannot answer nor save him out of his trouble. **8** “Remember this and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors, **9** remember the former things of old, For I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times *things* that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’ **11** Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed, I have spoken *it*; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed *it*; I will also do it.” Isaiah 46: 3-11,