

Genuine: #2 “I am Second” – Dr. Matt Cassidy

Romans 12:3 – 1/24/2010

Good morning. To give you an update, there are about 190 guys wrapping things up at the Men's Retreat. It was a fabulous weekend. Matt Henke did an amazing job of teaching us how to be men.

Haiti Relief:

I also wanted to give you an update on some of the generous giving that happened last week here for the Haiti relief. We collected, mostly in one day last week, about \$32,000. That is a lot of money for one week in a church our size. I want to thank you guys for being so generous. We have been working this week on what to do for the best investment of these resources. It was probably obvious to you that Haiti needs doctors and medical supplies.

One of the members of our church, because of an unfortunate situation in his own life, a traumatic event that took place in his own family, happened to be very well connected to M.D. Anderson in Houston. He said he was going to get together with one of the doctors from M.D. Anderson who said they would match us dollar for dollar. Every dollar we give to pharmaceutical needs, the medical team at M.D. Anderson will do the same. So we put \$10,000 of the \$32,000 towards those matching funds. We got 100% return on our investment by Thursday.

Then there was the problem of getting those medical supplies to Haiti. A person in this church has a friend who has currently in inventory two Gulf Stream private jets. He said if we would pay for the fuel, he would get the pilots and load the stuff up with some nurses and doctors. So we said we would buy fuel. Then we needed people to pack stuff and Hill Country Bible up the street was doing all kinds of stuff on a national level, so a number of our people went to their location and helped pack.

We are saving some of our money for the pastor in Haiti who we have been supporting for more than a decade. We are looking at supplying even more funds to him so he can help the people in his immediate area. His church building has not been dramatically influenced by the earthquake and after shocks so it is being used as a safe place to distribute supplies.

So, if you ever read in the newspaper that some pastors took the money and bought drugs and stole a private plane and went to some island in the Atlantic Ocean, there is another side to that story, okay.

Isn't it wonderful to see what we are reading in the newspaper? We are seeing what the full side of what the church can do and it is not contaminated by prejudice or bias. That has been fascinating.

Right to Life Sunday:

I want you to pace yourself. Next week we will be taking an offering for Life Care Pregnancy Center as our right-to-life Sunday. I wanted to give you a heads up on that so you could pray about how to give to them generously. We have been giving to them for over 25 years. Many times, they wait for us to budget their year because we have been such generous givers. So keep that in mind.

To start our teaching time, I thought we could pray a fish-and-loaves kind of prayer for the resources we were able to collect last week and see if God can turn them into baskets of medical supplies.

Lord,

I want to thank You and praise You for the way You stirred the hearts in this congregation. In many ways, it is a drop in the bucket in Your kingdom but for us it is a considerable sum of money. We are asking that You would multiply the supplies and the insight of the medical professionals who will be going to Haiti. Even now as these jet planes are taking off the runway, we ask that You would give them safe landing. When those men and women reach back for penicillin and pain killers and whatever it may be, that You would continually re-supply those things, that You would give them a banquet of resources.

God, I ask that You give them strength and stamina so they would soar as if on eagles' wings and they would not grow weary. Those people who are serving on the other side, who are digging up people and their remains, I ask that You give them diligence and help them find people so their families and loved ones can have closure and come to peace with whatever that experience brings to them.

So Lord we lift up the situation because we feel so powerless to do much about it. We send what we can and we do what we can and we ask for You to make it a magical thing, a supernatural event. We pray this with great expectations, in Jesus' name. Amen

Introduction

This is a great Sunday to be here at Grace Covenant Church. We are going to look at a passage today, just one sentence, which has all the potential of changing the world. No kidding – one sentence in the Bible. It won't make the world good but we could make the world better if we did this verse in Romans 12. The problems of the world, to make it good, we can't fix. God Himself will send His Son to return and straighten everything out. It is that broken. But God has delegated to us the honorable commission to help make the world better by spreading the news to all nations that Christ is King and that we have the ability to obey all of the King's commands. The church has been delegated that responsibility to make the world a better place, to help people submit their wills to the King.

But I know what you are thinking; it is pretty obvious. One of the first things that comes to anybody's mind on that is – *how is that going and how come it does not seem to be working that well?* That is what today's verse is about. How come the church seems to be restrained or harnessed from its potential of making the world a better place of transforming lives, of being this instrument of radical revolution that it was meant to be?

The reason is because of pride. The singular reason is a single word; it is because of pride. Every person sitting in every seat in every church brings that to the church and pride keeps it anchored and prevents the church from flying and soaring. Because of competitiveness, jealousy, conceit, arrogance and all these expressions of pride, the spiritual lives and the collective spiritual strength of the local church is muted. The effects of pride ruin our intimacy with God. It causes divorce in marriage. It makes relationships shallow. It chokes ministries. It condemns churches – just pride. It is everything. It is the single biggest problem in all of humanity. It always has been and always will be.

So this is first and foremost on Paul's mind when he addresses his letter to the Romans, when he starts getting into the application section of this great book of doctrine. When he talks about genuine faith, the real Christianity, he is going to take pride head on because it has no place in genuine Christianity. The application of great doctrine, that is described in Romans 12 – 14 especially, you will see is that Paul wants to get at this and choke it to death.

Review

Let's review from last week. Romans 12:1, 2 is just like the songs we sang today.

Romans 12:1, 2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual [or logical] service of worship.

What can I say? What can I do but give this heart of mine completely to You. In light of all that You are and all that You have done, it just makes sense and it serves as a form of worship to give God our bodies. Give Him everything all the time.

He says *don't do* and *do*.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Last week, we saw that the sweetest fruit from having our minds renewed, not being conformed but having our minds transformed, is the ability to hear God speak to us in the here and now. To have God's

voice tuned in to our souls and to have our minds transformed, we can hear that and respond. That helps us know whether we are supposed to wait on the Lord and trust Him that way, or whether we are supposed to run to a building that is burning, or some act of courage because He says to go there.

So, nonconformity to Madison Avenue or Sunset Blvd. and then the transformation of our minds, again, focusing on the way we think and the evolution of our thinking causes us to have tenderness towards God and other people and at the same time have the courage and strength to move forward. Sometimes it is easy to get one without the other. This transformation allows that to take place.

Romans 12:3 – How Not to Think

So what does that mean to avoid being conformed to the ways of this world and the world philosophies and what does it mean to be transformed by renewing our mind? That is where verse 3 picks up. Paul is going to talk head on and confront the single biggest problem with God's institution, this Bride of His, the local church. I will read the first time out of the New American Standard version of the Bible because it is more accurate; it is called a literal translation. I want you to see how he is going to be talking about thinking and how he says, don't think *this* way but think *that* way. It is a parallel passage of don't be conformed but be transformed.

Romans 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

I read it out of the New American Standard Bible because three times it says "think." Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think but instead think about this. Have sound judgment in your thinking as God has allowed each of us a measure of faith.

The New International Version of the Bible, which is probably what you are holding, says this in verse 3:

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

So the first part is do not be conformed and he says do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to. How are you not to think? You are not to think proudly or in a conceited way. This attack on pride is so prevalent in this book and the other books as well but in Romans in just Chapters 11 – 14, how

often Paul is referring to this because he wants the church to be as powerful in its potential as God would have for it.

Romans 11:18 ...do not boast over those (Jews that don't believe) branches.

...because they have been cut off.

Romans 11:20 Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either.

Romans 11:25 [I tell you this] so that you may not be conceited ...

Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud...

How do you live in harmony? The first thing, do not be proud.

.... But be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Romans 14:4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant?

Who put you in a place of judging other people?

How are you not to think? You are not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to because authentic Christianity has no place for that kind of keeping score or evaluating yourself with other people.

You know you are doing this if you are comparing yourself to other people in any way. What comes from that is either arrogance or jealousy, conceit or envy. If you cannot celebrate when the guy down the hallway gets a promoted above you, that is evidence in many respects that you are comparing yourself with him. That has no place in the church. It kills the relationship between you and the guy who got promoted. It also ruins the effectiveness of the church.

We bring that mindset – *it is all about me and what I want* – into every aspect of our lives. Certainly, a consumer mentality is the way we are trained in this country whether we are going to a restaurant or a church. *What are you going to do for me? What ministries do you have to serve my needs?* That is not even a value in the Bible but rather something to be avoided.

How to think

There is an alternative to jealousy, conceit, envy and pride. That is why Paul says: do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to but instead ...

Romans 12:3 ... but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

At the end of that verse, there are two things that keep us from pride. If we think right, here is what we will be thinking about. ... in accordance with the measure of faith God has given [us]. In that last section of verse 3, we can see there are two things that keep us from pride. The first thing is that you should be

thinking in accordance with the measure of faith. What do we have faith in? What is the object of our faith? Faith by definition is that we are not even thinking about ourselves any more; we are thinking about the thing that we have our faith in.

You can go to other books of the Bible but it is more than adequate to stay in the book of Romans. You can think about the object of faith in any kind of section if you have been reading with us in The Voyage [our read through the New Testament], you have probably experienced this. You can see that faith and the true claims in the first few chapters Romans 1-3 talk about how desperate we are without God. [Romans 3:10] There is none righteous, not even one. [Romans 3:13] Our lips are like venomous asps. We just spew evil. We can't make a law that we can keep the next day. That is chapters 1 – 3. So if you want to think soberly about yourself, you can think of it in that context, how God defines us without any kind of intervention on His part.

Romans 4-8 talks about what the love of God has done for us. You can think soberly about that. There is no reason for pride if you meditate on those things. There is a ransom, you realize, and we sang about that, a ransom that had to be paid. God sent His Son, motivated by nothing but love to pay for those sins against God. A couple of verses that come to my mind are

Romans 5:1 Therefore, we are now at peace with God because of Christ Jesus. Wow, peace with God.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...
When God looks at us now, all is well.

So, you can focus on Chapters 1 – 3, how you were without God. You can focus on Chapters 4 – 8 and see what the love of God has done for you. But the immediate context of this verse is following Chapters 9 – 11. In Chapters 9 – 11, Paul describes how God has a plan for all humanity and has the power to inflict that plan on our story line at His will and at His discretion. He takes people groups and says – *I will use you now. I will move you to the back for awhile and later on I'll bring you forward and I will do that because I want to. I need not explain. I don't consult you and I don't owe you.* After three chapters of that, Chapters 9, 10, and 11, it ends in 11:33-36, that is one of the three things but that is the immediate thing, that we bring our mind to in order to keep us from being proud.

Romans 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or, who has been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Who has God ever sought for counseling? Who has God ever written an IOU? No. The greatness of God, our thinking, think soberly about these things. Think soberly about the faith which He has allotted you. You think about those things and you will be transformed by the renewing of your mind. There will be no room for pride.

How it Looks

I have been thinking a lot this week about what that would look like. Forget who we would be without God and what God has done for us. But what if we had on our minds the greatness and the vastness and the power and the beauty and the love of God. What would that look like if we could, not figuratively but literally, see what that would look like? That is a hard thing to describe.

Then it occurred to me this morning, that I saw a commercial years ago by a car maker. I am almost certain it was Volkswagen. They had as the running theme of this commercial – *what is on your mind*. They took it literally – what is on your mind. It was that you would desire one of their automobiles. In the early part of the day, as an after thought, they stuck a little kid's toy car on this guy's forehead because he was thinking about it. But as the day progressed, he was reading the advertisements and the auto would grow bigger on his forehead. Someone invades his cubicle and he looks up and says What? There is now on his forehead an auto this big [larger] because he really wants that car and he is meditating on it day and night. By the end of the day, he is running for the dealership because the car is the size of his head. That is what it looks like to have something on your brain. Well, that is an automobile and it makes for a fun commercial.

But what would it be like if you or I were to have on our brains the greatness of God and we thought soberly about that all the time? It would be as though the thing were a Clydesdale, a giant horse. [A slide of a woman and a Clydesdale is displayed.] There is Sally Wilson and what is on her mind is this Clydesdale, this giant horse. Let's pretend for the sake of a common illustration you may know from the writings of C. S. Lewis in *The Chronicles of Narnia* that it is a lion, not a horse, being that big, always accompanying Sally Wilson because she is taking Paul's advice literally. She is thinking soberly about the faith that God has granted her. How would anyone know about Sally Wilson? Let's say she is a beautiful singer and other people want to describe her to you.

You say – *I've never met Sally Wilson. What is she like?*

They say – *Well, fangs. When I think of Sally Wilson, I think of those giant fangs dripping.*

You say - *That doesn't sound like a beautiful singer to me. Her eyes are chocolate brown, right?*

They say - *Well, I've only known Sally Wilson for about seven years and I will tell you this. That lion has been getting bigger right before my eyes. It was smaller before but now it is like the paws are the size of a truck tire.*

You say - *Still not a lot of information on Sally. What about her singing? I heard it is angelic and makes people cry to hear.*

They say - *Well, I guess, when that lion purrs, my bones rattle.*

There is not a lot about Sally Wilson in this story. Nope. No reason to be proud because she values the greatness of God and He is perpetually on her mind.

If you were this Sally Wilson and you had this omnipresent, giant, Clydesdale-size lion beside you because you were pursuing the knowledge of God and enjoying that, what would that be like? You would wake up in the morning, catch a peripheral glance of yourself in the mirror, and be startled. *Ahhh, I want to be better looking* or you go into that comparative mode because it is first thing in the morning and you wish you were taller or shorter or wider or whatever the fashionable thing they are telling us to believe in from the west coast. Before you can even sigh, you see It – the lion – and you feel it's breath on your neck. You forget what you look like, don't you? You forget all those silly values of comparative things about other human beings. The greatness of God can do that.

Hey, does that lion belong to you? Man, it's big.

No, I belong to the lion. I am His. He is not mine.

What would that be like? Paul says if that were to take place, you would be unleashed in genuine faith and able to use your gifts for the ministries that God has intended for you. In the vastness of God, in His greatness, what is wealth? What is wealth and power and beauty and health or whatever we have rattling around in our heads when we are not supposed to be thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to? What are we in comparison to this other alternative?

Example of a Value

You probably don't know this about me but I was a famously good linebacker in fifth grade. That is true -- so much so that I had a nickname. They called me Juice Box. Let's just think about that for a second. I was famous – that was confined to a region. If you lived in Harmony Hills, a small subdivision in San Antonio, you probably heard about me. Nobody has heard of me? No. Famously good – compared to whom? Linebacker – there are only two countries in the entire world that play this sport. I was a famously good linebacker in fifth grade. Now I am time stamped on this thing.

Isn't it about everything that we hold to, some kind of expression of being a famously good linebacker in fifth grade? Do not think more highly of yourselves than you ought to. You are just a mildly famous good linebacker in fifth grade, really.

Alexander's remains have turned to clay and they plug a hole in a wall to keep the cold wind out of an outhouse in Egypt. Alexander was not great. Alexander was a pawn of God and he was used by God to make ready the way for the Great One, who oddly enough was born in a cave and his first crib was a cattle trough.

Another Reason to not cling to Pride

Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought to; but instead think about the faith that God has allotted you. There is no place for pride if you are thinking about God's greatness. Look at the verse again and I want you to see the second thing that keeps us from having pride. It slips in there and you better be careful because it is at the end.

Romans 12:3 ... Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. We have talked about the measure of faith. The object of that faith is either who we are without God, or what God's love has done for us, or the greatness of God in His beauty and His power. But look at what it says at the end of that verse.

...the measure of faith God has given you.

Even the faith that we have is not from us. We have got nothing in this. Even the faith that we have in the greatness of God is a gift that shows up on our front porch.

Did I tell you that I was a famously good linebacker in fifth grade and I had a nickname, "Juice Box?" Did I tell you that? What if I told you the reason I was linebacker was because the coach felt sorry for me. What if I told you the reason they called me "Juice Box" is because I peeled the sticker off a slot car set and the little sticker said "Juice Box" and I stuck that on the back of my helmet. You see, my little famously good linebacker, even that is from an outside source. It was a position that was a gift and a nickname that was stolen off a toy. That is all we have. Everything we have is given to us from God. So, we think soberly about the faith that God has measured out to us.

Isn't there a common resentment inside and outside the church? Everybody you know has a common resentment towards Trust Fund Babies. It is not the money and actually it doesn't apply to everyone who inherits great wealth. It applies to the obnoxious ones. We don't care so much about people inheriting money. It is a silly way to keep score. But what bugs us about it is they are kind of pompous

and conceited and it is not their money. That is what bugs us. Who are you to have that attitude when all you did was being born into it? You had nothing to do with that. There is something within us that causes us to think – *That is inappropriate. It is illogical. It doesn't make sense. It is really disgusting.*

Every weekend for me, and I bet you are there too, whether we are watching Nascar or figure skating or anything in between we are looking for Trust Fund Babies in every and all circumstances. We watch somebody finish the race and they are first and they are doing that post race interview. We are leaning into it – Come on, man, don't be a Trust Fund Driver. -- *It was my team. It was my owner. We had a great day out here but honestly it was God's deal because He made me able to drive.* I kind of like this guy.

Between services, I was thinking I am picking football teams to root for by the coach's interview. I don't care anything about teams. I just like it when – Hey, this guy gets it. Or, this guy is full of himself. I hope they lose just to watch them cry – because they have a Trust Fund Baby mentality about their coaching skills. So they come out after the game and say – *You are lucky to have me.* – No, that is not how it rolls.

I just love it when these gifted athletes with freakish expressions of art, whether it is on a stage like this or it is in some sort of arena, they just know that everything they have is from God and they can't wait to tell you that. Sure, it doesn't seem right how much talent they have, but they are not keeping it to themselves. They are sharing it with the world and they are telling you where it is from.

It is repulsive in arenas and on red carpets and on stages and it is especially wrong in a church. There is no place for pride in a church. It is repulsive. It is repugnant. It is idolatrous. It is anathema because the church is the Bride of Christ without blemish or spot or wrinkle and pride stains that. So it is not just ineffectual, it is inappropriate for the Bride of Christ to wear that (pride).

Summary

God wants us, through the letter of Paul, to speak to this issue of pride so that we can be this thing called the Church and have influence in pleasing God and influence on other people if we are humble and modest.

You want significance? Here is how you get significance. You find significance in the greatness of God. The greater God is, the greater your significance is.

You want value? The greater you value Christ and what He has done for you, the greater you are.

You want esteem? You esteem the grandeur of God and as that grandeur grows, you grow. As your faith that God has allotted to you grows, the lion grows. That is how you get esteem and value.

How do you get this faith? Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. That is why we study our Bibles around here. That is why we do it from the pulpit and why we are reading through the Bible together in The Voyage. If we don't do that, our default is to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to. That is what we will always go to; it is a perpetual evil that is nagging us and pulling us down constantly.

You just look at the values we have here at Grace Covenant Church. You cannot connect to other people with pride because you get envious or competitive or whatever. It forces the relationship to maintain shallowness.

You can't even serve with pride. The sweetness and the purity of the aroma of service is ruined by the stench of pride. It is like the wind shifts and the scent of cattle yards are now part of this service project somehow because someone steps in the room and brings that with them. That somebody could be you. There is no place for that in service.

"Transformed by God's Grace" – the reason we picked that is this Romans 12:1-3 section. Transformed there is where we get the word metamorphosis. We are being transformed from these ugly, slug-like worms to butterflies who soar and sail. Do you know what keeps you in that cocoon? Pride. How do you keep from pride? You think soberly on the faith that God has measured out for you. Then if that is the truth, you can make the world better. I am not kidding. It is true. It is not hyperbole or something out there that you can dream about but will never be reality.

Comparison of Situations of Pride and Absence of Pride

In 1989, in just my short little lifetime, the Berlin Wall fell. Some of you know how historic that was because for 70 years East Berlin and East Germany were paralyzed in their spiritual experience. Christianity was illegal. When that wall fell down, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Christendom to come racing in before the culture was contaminated by consumerism. You probably read about how the church went in there and No, you didn't read about that because it didn't happen. World evangelical Christianity was shamed because we were all so proud about who was going to get there first and whose name got put on the T-shirt that nothing happened there. As one leader explained: They were able to get Walkmans before we could get them Bibles. They sold their souls to the newest junk instead of to Christ.

The humiliating experience caused rumbles through the evangelical world but also the fall of the wall caused rumbles with the Iron Curtain. It was clear that the Soviet Union would fall as well.

So, there a meeting was called. Many of the leaders and presidents of the various ministries throughout the world met in a room and they realized that something had to change, and something dramatically. A good part of an entire day was spent just worshipping God, really not intentionally but through the outline of the book of Romans. They prayed about who they were without God and without His help and His love. Then they praised God for all that He had done through Christ in paying for their sins and setting them free and giving them the power of the Holy Spirit. Then they spent a considerable amount of time worshipping God and enjoying His greatness in songs. That led to a natural thing to take place – Romans 12:1-3. They gave their bodies a living sacrifice but then they stopped thinking more highly of themselves than they should and became sober about the faith that God had given them.

One by one, the men and women went up front and they looked people in the eye (people like the president of Campus Crusade and Navigators and InterVarsity and Walk Thru the Bible and leaders of major denominations like the Southern Baptist convention and Evangelical Free Church of America) and they started pointing to people and naming them and saying, “I have been resentful of you and jealous of your ministry. I need you to forgive me.” One by one, multiple times, men and women got up and they just let it go.

Guess what? When Russia opened up, they had a concerted effort together because no one had to be in charge and no one cared whose name was on the T-shirt. They re-named the whole thing to be called the Co-mission. Within a few short months, a country that had banned any religious input from the Bible for 70 years was now teaching the Ten Commandments and the Prodigal Son in public high schools as the ethic of the culture. The life of Christ from the book of Luke, word for word, called “The Jesus Film”, played on television in all ten time zones (this is a big country) 24 – 7 for months on end. Every principal, every superintendent, every regional director of a high school or junior high watched, uncut, the life of Jesus the Christ from the book of Luke. It was mandated by the Secretary of Education. Why? Because the church has that power if the church thinks soberly about the greatness of God.

What happened was I don’t know how many, 35 people, entered a room in Atlanta and they were all first. They were presidents. By the end of the night, they were second and then God could work. Second place in Christianity, by the way, is a lot like second place in division one college football. There is no prize, no concern, no care. Who knows or who cares who got second. Do you know what you get for being second? You get the privilege of playing in the game. So there is first and there is everything else.

Do you want to change the world? We won’t make it good but we could make it better. Paul tells us how, right there, those words. It is all about the way you think. Don’t think more highly about yourself

than you ought to but think soberly, think about the faith that God has allotted you. He gave you faith by grace.

Let's ask God to turn in our souls about this issue of pride and how it is expressing itself in our own lives, that He could sear it. Why don't we let our offertory song be a kind of prayer. The words will be on the screen. I want you to meditate on those words and hopefully sing those words to God about giving Him everything, letting everything else go. Let's pray to that end.

Lord,

While Your promises clearly tell us that we have been made right and we have been justified and declared righteous in Your eyes, this lingering pride continually haunts us and brings us back down.

I guess, now we understand because of this verse and the attention Paul gives it, we understand how pride is destroying our lives, our relationships, and even our church. We are always looking for some way to compare ourselves to other people and that causes us to either inflate ourselves and puff out our chests and brag about who we are compared to others, or it causes us to fall and feel inadequate because we are not as talented or as pretty or as wealthy or whatever silly thing we do. Either way, we are destined for ruin and yet here it is. If we would just have You on our minds, we would have no room for anything else.

Oh, the depths of the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and unfathomable are His ways. "Who has known the mind of God? Or who has ever been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God would repay him?" It is from You, God, it is through you, God, and it is to You, God, that all things exist and are possible. So, to You, Jehovah, be all the glory for ever and ever and ever!

And all God's people said – Amen.