

PRAYER MEETING

"GOD'S UNSEARCHABLE WAYS"**Introduction**

1. The Context: Paul's doxology
2. God's ways are unsearchable
3. This fact should fill us also with praise

DOCTRINE: There is Mystery in all God's ways. We need to ponder the surprising nature of them.

1. THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION

- 1) It is all out of nothing: create v. make.
- 2) The amazing orderliness: from the outside to the inside: man at its centre
- 3) Six days: to set us an example: the Sabbath proves man is religious
APPLICATION: The age of the earth v. apparent age.

2. THE AMAZING ENTRANCE OF SIN

- 1) God never created sin – but He permitted it to enter for wise reasons
- 2) Sin's origin: in heaven
- 3) Sin as "different" in angels and men
- 4) The purpose: to display God's love, grace, long-suffering and justice
APPLICATION: "The best of all possible world's"

3. THE TREE OF GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

- 1) "Tree": Paul's illustration in Romans 11

- 2) The lessons: a three-stage purpose

- 3) Forgiveness:
 - (i) in the O.T.
 - (ii) in the N.T.

APPLICATION: At each stage man's failure is visible

4. THE BIRTH, LIFE AND DEATH OF CHRIST

- 1) The secrecy of the birth
- 2) The stupendously great miracle
- 3) The private life: for 30 years
- 4) The unexpected character of the Messiah:
 - (i) NOT conqueror
 - (ii) but Saviour
- 5) All were surprised
 - (i) Pharisees: by the Cross
 - (ii) Apostles: by the resurrection

APPLICATION: How suitable are Paul's words here!

5. THE SECRET OF CHRIST'S RETURN

- 1) the programme of the NT age is known - but its end-date not known
- 2) why has God not told us all?
APPLICATION: Our duty to "watch and pray"

OBSERVATIONS

1. God's ways are not what men would expect
2. "The foolishness of God" is far wiser than men

3. Our wisdom is to cast aside our wisdom
4. The real faith that saves is childlike
5. All who approach God's ways with pride will stumble and fall

CONCLUSION

Illustration: Eta Linnemann

