**God Without Limits**

Talk 2: Incomprehensible

**Introduction**

1. **We can never know God fully**

*Incomprehensibility:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Omniscience:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 145:3

Psalm 147:5

Job 26:14

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

 neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth,

 so are my ways higher than your ways

 and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9, NIV)

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

 How unsearchable his judgments,

 and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?

 Or who has been his counsellor?” (Romans 11:33-34, NIV)

17 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 *and to know this love that surpasses knowledge*—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19, NIV)

***Why is God incomprehensible?***

1. *Because we are finite*

*“A created understanding can no more comprehend God than a vial-glass can contain the waters of the sea.” (*Edward Leigh*, A Treatise or Body of Divinity,* II.i.*)*

1. *Because we are fallen*

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. (Rom. 1:21-23)

1. *Because God has hidden things from us*

29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29, NIV)

***What does this mean for our understanding of God?***

1. **But we can know God truly**
2. *God has made himself known through his Son*

18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (John 1:18, NIV)

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. (Hebrews 1:1-3, NIV)

1. *God has made himself known through the Scriptures*

*“For who even of slight intelligence does not understand that, as nurses commonly do with infants, God is wont in a measure to “lisp” in speaking to us? Thus such forms of speaking do not so much express clearly what God is like as accommodate the knowledge of him to our slight capacity. To do this he must descend far beneath his loftiness.”* (John Calvin*, Institutes of the Christian Religion*, XIII, 1, p121, Translated by Ford Lewis Battles)

“God has provided knowledge of himself that is personal, relational, and sufficient for fruitful, faithful, godly living.” ESV Study Bible, *Article on God’s Incomprehensibility*

**Implications**

1. *God’s incomprehensibility should humble us*
2. *God’s incomprehensibility should thrill us*