



Sermon Text: Romans 11:33-36

Sermon Date: March 13

Having spent the last eleven chapters walking us through the gospel, Paul now arrives at the end of the doctrinal portion of the letter with an eruption of awe-struck adoration of God. This is essential for us to see: It all ends in worship. Theology flows into doxology. As Pastor Kent Hughes says, “Our study of God and his ways among us should turn our hearts to music.” Pastor Justin highlighted five realities about worship we can observe from the text.

1. **Worship is a movement of our heart toward God.** Our passage is an exclamation of praise. Paul’s heart is moved. His emotions are engaged. While the movement of our hearts toward God is not always the same, and will vary in different seasons of the soul, worship must always involve our hearts. Sometimes our hearts are moved in joyful exuberance, other times in hopeful sorrow, but there is always a movement of the heart toward God.
2. **Worship is a response to the revelation of God’s greatness.** Our hearts are moved toward God in response to the greatness of who He is and what He has done. This is what we see Paul doing. Having traced out God’s great plan and purpose in salvation, Paul responds in awe as he contemplates the depths of God’s riches, wisdom, and knowledge. Our knowledge of God deepens our worship. The more we know of Him, the more we will adore Him.
3. **Worship is humbly embracing our smallness.** As we respond to the revelation of God’s greatness, we are rightly humbled. We feel appropriately small in comparison. Paul shows us God’s independence. He doesn’t need advisors. He is no man’s debtor. Everything we ever give to God is from the currency of grace we have received from His wallet. He is the source, means, and goal of all things. He is the giver and the gift, but never the recipient.
4. **Worship is centered on God’s glory.** In worship we see that God’s work does not revolve around us, but ultimately (and always) around Him. He alone is worthy of all worship. His glory becomes the end for which we raise our families and do our jobs. The enjoyment of His glory in all the earth becomes our life’s purpose.
5. **Worship is living in obedience to God’s commands.** As we move into Romans 12-16, Paul shows us that worship isn’t merely a feeling or a service or any action we turn on and turn off like a spigot. Worship is a lifestyle—living day-in and day-out in loving obedience to God’s commands. Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices, this is our spiritual worship (12:1).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) **What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?**
- 2) **Paul shows us that it all ends in worship. Theology is meant to flow into doxology. As you look back over these last eleven chapters, what are some things that have lead you to worship God?**
- 3) **How does humbly embracing our smallness in view of God’s greatness increase our awe of God’s love and Christ’s sacrifice for us on the Cross?**