

SERMON OUTLINE

In Romans 11:33-36 Paul breaks out in a doxology by proclaiming 5 reasons glory is due to God alone.

Soli Deo Gloria because:

- I. God's character is unfathomably rich in wisdom & knowledge (v. 33a, 35)
- II. God's acts are beyond our full understanding (v. 33b, 34).
- III. God is the source of all things (v. 36a).
- IV. God is the sustainer of all things (v. 36b).
- V. God is the goal of all things (v. 36c).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 29, 2017

Passage: Romans 11:33-36

Memory Passage: Romans 11:33-36

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 11:1-36.** In order to understand the context of vs. 33-36, take a moment to read and then summarize vs. 1-32. This passage contains some verses whose meaning is disputed, but make sure you understand the overall trajectory of the passage by identifying (1) its main points, (2) what God has done, (3) what man has done, both Jews & Gentiles (4) how the argument is made for the answer to the question asked in v. 1, etc.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 11:33-36.** The Greek text of v. 33a can be translated, “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” as in the ESV, or, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” as in the NASB (cf. NIV). Which translation do you think best fits the context and thought of this passage and why?

(b) What emotion is Paul expressing by using the particle “Oh” and what drives this emotion?

(c) To what is Paul responding with this doxology, to what specific expressions of “wisdom” and “knowledge” is Paul referring, and why does he single out for praise these specific attributes (don’t neglect the context you wrote about yesterday)?

(d) In what way are “judgment” and “ways” connected/related to “wisdom” and “knowledge?”

(e) Think of specific situations that you have encountered in the last month in which meditation on the attributes of God listed in v. 33 would have brought (or did bring) you comfort, encouragement, or strength.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 11:33-36, Job 41:11, & 42:1-6.** Explain why these judgments & ways are “unsearchable” and “inscrutable.” Does this mean humans can never see or understand the works of God? Why or why not?

(b) How does the “for” that begins v. 34 inform your interpretation of v. 34-35?

(c) How does the rhetorical question in v. 34 support what Paul said in v. 33, and what does it teach us about God and man?

(d) Paul quotes Job 41:11 in v. 35. How does Job’s setting fit with the context of Romans 9-11 and Paul’s quote from Job 41:11 (remember from our study of Job that Job was very concerned about God’s justice: he thought since God was just, God would hear his plea and find him not guilty, but later in the book Job begins to accuse God of being unjust)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 11:33-36.** How does v. 36 support/explain v. 35 (note the “for” that begins v. 36)?

(b) What does the first sentence in v. 36 teach you about God and His work, and why is this important in your daily life?

(c) Define “glory,” and explain the 4 different ways it is used in its 5 occurrences in 1 Chronicles 16 (vs. 10, 24, 28, 29, 35).

(d) Explain the phrase, “To him be glory forever” and how, in the specific details of your daily life, do you accomplish this?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Romans 11:33-36, Ps. 19:1-6, 96:1-13, 115:1, Is. 42:5-9 & 43:6-7.** Our word “doxology” has its roots in the Greek words for “glory” and “word/saying.” Spend today reading and meditating on these verses which speak about God’s glory and write your own doxology as you consider “Soli Deo Gloria,” the reformation teaching that salvation is for “The Glory of God Alone.”

DATE: October 29, 2017

PASSAGE: Romans 11:33-36

Soli Deo Gloria!