

WEEK 22 | ROMANS 11:33-36

ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Isaiah 40:9-31
- Job 38:1-7; 42:1-6
- Colossians 1:15-21

THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”¹

1. A right understanding of theology leads to doxology of God. (Rom. 11:33, 36)
2. God, our supreme Creator, doesn't owe us anything; instead, we are recipients of his grace. (Rom. 11:34-35)
3. Only God is the Creator and sustainer of all things. No man can match him. (Rom. 11:36)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. Romans 11:33-36 is a doxology, functioning as an endcap to Paul's gospel presentation and theological argument so far. As you look back over the book of Romans, what has been your favorite part so far? Why?
3. In v. 33, Paul uses the word, “depths,” or *bathos*, meaning “to dive deep and explore.” In the book of Romans, we have a clear view of the depths of God's character, his gospel, and his purposes. How has exploring the depths of God changed you? Have you experienced any awe as you've explored the book?
4. Do you ever question God's wisdom? Or have you ever thought, “But God, if you only knew [fill in the blank], then you wouldn't do that?” Or have you felt like God owes you in some way?

One of the magnificent truths revealed in passages like Isaiah 40, Job 38, and Ecclesiastes 1-2 is that God is able to *go there* with you. It's okay to cry out. But each time, God uses his Word to draw you back to a right view of him.

How do verses 33 and 36 help you regain a right perspective of God?

5. How does a passage like this impact your daily life?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.