

Questions for Growth Group Discussion and Personal Reflection

Romans 11:33-36

Do I want answers that satisfy my understanding before I will offer praise to God or am I willing to praise based solely on who He is?

1. When do you find it easiest to offer praise and thanks to God, when life is good or when things are a struggle? Why do you suppose that is? When things are a struggle, does the depth or sincerity of your praise depend on answers to your questions (like "Why?")? Why or why not?
2. A doxology is a short hymn of praise to God.
 - a. Why is the positioning and content of 11:33-36 appropriate for this doxology? Or asked another way, how does this song of praise relate to what Paul has been saying, especially in 11:25-32?
 - b. What attributes of God does Paul celebrate here? Why these?
 - c. What about these attributes bothers you or gives you comfort?
 - d. How do the Old Testament passages quoted in verses 33-36 quiet concerns that may have been raised in chapters 9-11?
 - e. How might these same Old Testament passages relate to our concerns today?
3. What does it mean to say that *all things* are from God, through God and to God (verse 36. Hint, NLT unpacks this a bit). Take a few moments and offer specific examples of what the "all things" are and talk about how your specific examples are created and sustained by God for His glory (remember to include your own life in this discussion).
4. Summarize the message of this doxology in your own words.
5. God's character is revealed to us so that it can impact our lives. List one or two ways that the truth found in this doxology could be made manifest in your life. Or, said another way, what difference does the truth expressed in 11:33-36 make in the way you view and live your life?

Closing

Close in prayer by letting the Lord know the things about this world or about faith that bring you comfort as well as concern. As you and others pray be sure to listen to the Spirit. Is there anything that you, as the creature, need to surrender to the Creator? Close by having each person express one line of praise to God for one of His attributes.

For Next Week:

- Read Romans 12:1-2
- Memorize Romans 8:11