



Worship

Romans 11:30-36 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 28:2 | Psalm 143:6; 8-10 | Psalm 95:6-7 | Romans 14:10-11 | Romans 12:1-2

SUMMARY

Worship in English is pretty simple, it comes from a combination of two words, worth-ship, it is ascribing worth to something. Looking at something and declaring that it is worthy of our time, our energy, our passion, our hope, our care, our resources.

Now the word “worship” brings up pictures in your mind that look religious, rituals, mystical, whatever, and those things are not naturally comfortable to all people. But “ascribing worth” to something is the most natural thing in the world, this is something we were born to do, we look for something or someone who is “worthy”, someone or something that is awesome and worthy of our adoration, our affection, our time, our energy. And when we find it, we can’t stop talking about it!

This happens to Paul in Romans 11. He’s talking about his kinsfolk’s (Israel) rejection of the Jesus as the Messiah and God’s wisdom in flipping the script with Israel and the rest of the world. Israel was supposed to be obedient to God in order to draw the unbelieving nations out of their disobedience to God. But now through Christ, Paul marvels, it’s going to be *the nations* that draw *Israel out of their* disobedience! Sometimes worship catches us by surprise!

Whether we are caught by surprise or simply pursuing God in worship, whether in your ordinary days or when gather to worship with others, Perry noted for us that there are three main postures that our hearts should take:

- (1) Raised hands that reflect a heart’s desire to Connect
- (2) Uprturned hands that reflect a heart’s desire to Receive
- (3) Kneeling that reflects a heart’s desire to Submit

The question is, what god will you connect to, receive from, and submit to? Will it be the LORD? Who offers salvation, hope, grace, power, and an eternal family? Or will it be some other god, an idol, something else which in the end only offers one thing: destruction.

The ultimate goal that God sets for us is when it comes to our worship is given right after Paul has his little moment of praise and worship in Romans 11: *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Romans 11:30-36 (read aloud, sit with it), share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about Paul's worship of God?
- Paul overflows in worship about God's wisdom in Romans 11. Read it again and ask: What is it about God's wisdom makes me want to **connect** with him? What choices of his feel so unsearchable to me that I simply **receive and submit** to them?
- Why do you suppose Paul asks "*Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay?*" What is he trying to produce in his audience? In us?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?