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Doctrine into Doxology

Romans 11.33-36

Series: Near to the Heart of God

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The Village Church at Shell Point

Evening Service

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I. **Prayers of the New Testament**

A. Motivation for series

B. Pray-ers

1. **Jesus**

a. “Lord’s Prayer” – Matthew 6.9-13, Luke 11.2-4

b. High Priestly Prayer – John 17

c. Gethsemane – Matthew 26.36-46

2. **Paul**

a. Completing the Work – Philippians 1.3-11

b. Walking in a Manner Worthy – Colossians 1.3-23

c. Knowing the Hope of His Calling – Ephesians 1.15-23

d. Filled with the Fullness of God – Ephesians 3.14-21

II. **Doctrine v. Worship**

A. Definitions

1. **Doctrine – system of truth**

a. Summary of teaching found in scripture

b. Concerning essential knowledge

(1) Of God

(2) Of humanity

(3) Of God’s redemptive purposes

(4) Of His Son Jesus Christ

c. **Jude 3** (ESV) — 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

d. Knowledge – has powerful cognitive, intellectual emphasis

2. **Worship – ascribing worth and value to God**

a. **Psalm 29:2** (ESV) — 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

B. Tendencies to separate doctrine and worship

1. Doctrine – intellect

2. Worship – heart, emotion

3. One of the chief weaknesses of today's church – separation of doctrine from worship
 4. Jonathan Edwards
 - a. True religion is concerned chiefly with “holy affections”
 - b. The way to the affections is through the mind
 - c. Affections – priority of goal
 - d. Mind – priority of means
 5. William Temple: “Worship is the submission of all of our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by his holiness; the nourishment of mind with his truth; the purifying of imagination by his beauty; the opening of the heart to his love; the surrender of will to his purpose--all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable.” (Archbishop of Canterbury, 1942-44)
 6. The wholeness of humanity is involved
 - a. Mind and the affections are, in the final analysis, inseparable in genuine Christianity
- C. Romans is normally thought of as a doctrinal treatise
1. Paul's magnum opus
 2. But why does he erupt in the middle of the book with...
- D. **Romans 11:33–36** (ESV) —
1. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
 2. How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
 3. 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”
 4. 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”
 5. 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.
 6. To him be glory forever. Amen.

III. **Outline of Romans**

A. **The Gospel Theme**

1. The gospel is the theme of Romans
2. **Romans 1:1** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...
3. **Romans 1:15** (ESV) —
 - a. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.
4. **Romans 1:16–17** (ESV) —
 - a. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 - b. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

B. **Gospel Need**

1. In short – the sinfulness of humanity
2. **Romans 1:18** (ESV) —

- a. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
- 3. **Romans 3:9** (ESV) —
 - a. 9 What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin...
- 4. **Romans 3:10–12** (ESV) —
 - a. 10 as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.
 - b. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
- 5. That’s the bad news
 - a. The gospel need
 - b. Why God needed to intervene through His Son
- C. **Gospel Justification**
 - 1. Then we have the good news – the very meaning of the word gospel
 - a. Justification by faith alone
 - 2. **Romans 3:21–26** (ESV) —
 - a. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—
 - b. 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:
 - c. 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - d. 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
 - e. 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.
 - f. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.
 - g. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
- D. **Gospel Benefits**
 - 1. Romans 5-8
 - 2. **Romans 5:1–5** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 - c. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,
 - d. 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

- e. 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
- 3. **Romans 6:5–8** (ESV) —
 - a. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.
 - b. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
 - c. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.
 - d. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
- 4. **Romans 7:4** (ESV) —
 - a. 4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.
- 5. **Romans 8:1–2** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - b. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- 6. Just a taste of the benefits of the gospel in Romans 5-8
- E. **Gospel Sovereignty**
 - 1. Romans 9
 - a. The initiative for the gospel
 - b. The plan for the gospel
 - c. The execution of the gospel
 - d. The fulfillment of the gospel
 - e. All comes from God and His choices in eternity past
 - 2. **Romans 9:15–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 15 For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”
 - b. 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
- F. **Gospel History**
 - 1. Paul puts in context the whole history of God’s chosen people Israel and the Gentiles in Romans 10-11
 - 2. **Romans 9:25–26** (ESV) —
 - a. 25 As indeed he says in Hosea, “Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’ and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’ ”
 - b. 26 “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ ”
 - 3. **Romans 10:19–21** (ESV) —

- a. 19 But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”
- b. 20 Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.”
- c. 21 But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”
- 4. **Romans 11:1** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
- 5. **Romans 11:7–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,
 - b. 8 as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.”
 - c. 9 And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them;
 - d. 10 let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”
- 6. **Romans 11:11–12** (ESV) —
 - a. 11 So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.
 - b. 12 Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!
- 7. **Romans 11:25–27** (ESV) —
 - a. 25 Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.
 - b. 26 And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
 - c. 27 “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”
- 8. What a grand plan!
 - a. How God designed redemption
 - b. Focused on a chosen people
 - c. A disobedient people, who did not, could not, secure their own redemption
 - d. And then used their disobedience to save Gentiles – from every people, tongue, tribe and nation
 - e. Breaking down the dividing wall of hostility (Ephesians 2)

- G. **Gospel Application**
1. **Romans 12-16**
 2. Living Sacrifice
 3. Spiritual gifts
 4. Loving character of the body
 5. Relation to authority
 6. Stronger and weaker brothers

IV. **Gospel Doxology**

A. **Romans 11:33–36** (ESV) —

1. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
2. How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
3. 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”
4. 35 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”
5. 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.
6. To him be glory forever. Amen.

B. **Location**

1. After all that theology, all that doctrine
 - a. Paul bursts forth in praise!
2. Doesn't stick it in there as an afterthought
 - a. A literary parenthesis
3. His mind is so full of God and His God-ness
 - a. So full of the glory of God's eternal plan of redemption
 - b. So full of the weightiness of the supremacy of God and Christ
4. That he can't help himself anymore!
 - a. He must stop and praise God

C. **Riches, Wisdom, Knowledge, Judgments**

1. **Romans 11:33** (ESV) —
 - a. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
 - b. How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
2. Three things are lauded for their depth
 - a. Depth – the deep things of God
 - b. We too often want to play in the baby pool
 - c. We would rather swim in the shallows
 - d. But the gospel beckons us to put on our scuba gear and venture into the deep waters
3. The depth of the riches of God
 - a. The gospel reveals extraordinary wealth and resources of God Almighty
 - b. He lacks nothing that cannot be used to fulfill His redemptive purposes
 - c. And as Paul has explained his gospel, God has pulled out all the stops, left nothing in reserve, to accomplish His sovereign and loving plan

- d. Oh, the depth of the riches of God
- 4. The depth of the wisdom of God
 - a. Wisdom – precise and judicious use of resources to accomplish His purposes
 - b. Every element, every thread woven together to create the most beautiful tapestry of glory
 - c. Evident in the choices that God made – that we would never even have considered
- 5. The depth of the knowledge of God
 - a. The omniscient God
 - b. The all-knowing God
 - c. Who knows the end from the beginning
 - d. Who knows no such thing as a surprise!
 - e. Who as the Creator of everything that exists, knows the expansiveness of the universe, with its immensities of stars, solar systems, galaxies, black holes, and things yet undiscovered
 - f. As much as every intricacy of intercellular machines
 - g. And He knows how to work all those elements together to create a planet for life
 - h. Indeed, for human life – to flourish and grow in meaning and purpose
 - i. And with all that knowledge, to know how to send His Son as the incarnate Son as the redeemer for lost humanity
- 6. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
- 7. How unsearchable His judgments!
 - a. Judgments – the decisions of God
 - b. Judicial decisions; making distinctions between good and evil
 - c. Every decision the right decision
 - d. Every judgment the perfect judgment
 - e. How far from even our best judicial institutions!
 - f. We can't even begin to explore the origin of His decisions – they are unsearchable!
- 8. How inscrutable His ways!
 - a. His paths, His directions
 - b. The Spirit goes where He will – we cannot tell where He comes from or where He is going
 - c. My dear friend Denis MacDowell: We're always trying to unscrew the inscrutable!
 - d. But we can't do it!
 - e. His ways are past finding out!
- D. **Rhetorical Questions**
 - 1. Rhetorical questions
 - a. Rhetorical – answer is obvious
 - b. Who, who, who
 - c. Answer – no one, no one, no one!

2. **Who has known the mind of the Lord?**
 - a. To know the mind of someone is to control them
 - b. We couldn't begin to tell God what to do, how to be God!
 3. **Who has been his counselor?**
 - a. Do you think God needs our advice?
 - b. Doesn't stop people telling God what they think He ought to do
 - c. What fools!
 - d. Giving God advice is a fool's errand if there ever was one
 4. **Who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?**
 - a. We don't have anything to give to God that He hasn't already given to us!
 - b. **1 Corinthians 4:7** (ESV) — 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?
 - c. We couldn't begin to give to God so as to incur some obligation on His part!
 5. All our gifts to Him are mere tokens of the plenteous gifts He has given to us!
- E. **Glorious Supremacy**
1. **Romans 11:36** (ESV) —
 - a. 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.
 - b. To him be glory forever. Amen.
 2. **From Him**
 - a. He is the origin of our existence
 - b. In Him we live and move and have our being
 - c. **Acts 17:24–28** (ESV) — 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’
 3. **Through Him**
 - a. He is the means by which we live
 - b. Our salvation depends on Him
 - c. Our sanctification depends on Him
 4. **To Him**
 - a. He is the purpose of our existence
 - b. We are building a community of forgiveness, purpose and hope – in Jesus Christ!

- c. Our purpose is in Jesus Christ!
 - 5. **To Him be glory forever!**
 - a. God alone is worth our worship
 - b. God alone is accorded glory
 - c. Any other kind of glory is reflective of God's glory – even if we see it in human beings!
- F. What incredible worship flows from this true gospel

V. **From Doxology to Life Application**

- A. The next significant word in Romans is “Therefore”
 - 1. Doxology is the fulcrum of this book
 - 2. It is the center of gravity around which this book revolves
- B. Flow
 - 1. Theology
 - 2. Praise
 - 3. Application
- C. So doxology is the launching pad for our Christian lives
 - 1. There is a sense in which our praying becomes increasingly praise
 - a. And our thoughts of ourselves diminish
 - b. And our thoughts of our glorious God and Savior shines such light that so many of our personal fears and desires and concerns seem to fade into the background
 - 2. As our praise dominates our praying