

**Let's Make Some Noise!****Psalm 150**<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,<sup>4</sup> praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute,<sup>5</sup> praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.

The writer of this psalm knew what it meant to be overtaken by the need to praise God, and wanted to do it noisily. Trumpets, cymbals, tambourines and more: apparently, there just aren't too many ways to make some noise about God's greatness. Similarly, in this week's study, Paul gives us an awe-filled passage in which he couldn't come up with too many ways to express how magnificent God is. Let's join in this praise through our study of God's word.

**Monday – His Ways Are Higher**

*"I wish to show that there is one wisdom which is perfect, and that this is contained in the Scriptures."* Francis Bacon, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> c. English nobleman

1. Please read Romans 11:33-36. What qualities of God is Paul praising in verse 33?

**Text Insight** – These four verses at the end of Romans 11 are Paul's response to what he has been writing about up to that point. Katherine Grieb explains: *"The glorious doxology, in Romans 11:33-36, that ends this section of Paul's argument is a fitting conclusion to his defense of the righteousness of God with respect to Israel.... Indeed God's judgments are unreachable and God's ways are inscrutable...."*

2. How does Isaiah 55:8-9 help you understand Paul's point in verse 33?

3. Take a look at Psalm 92:5 and Psalm 139:17; what value is put on God's thoughts in those passages? Why do you think the authors of these psalms felt that way?

**Making it Personal:** Re-read Romans 11:33. Express your praise for God's wisdom and knowledge.

**Tuesday – Who's Counseling Whom?**

*"It is a certain truth, that none can understand the prophets' and apostles' writings aright, without the same Spirit by which they were written"* George Fox, 17<sup>th</sup> c. English theologian

1. Please read Romans 11:34. What are the difficulties in trying to understand what is going on in another person's mind? How are those difficulties multiplied when trying to counsel God?

2. Paul is quoting from Isaiah 40:13-14. How does that passage and Micah 4:12 tell us about the folly of trying to give God advice?

3. Read John 14:16-17 for the identity of the true Counselor. Who is Jesus talking about? How can the promise that the Holy Spirit is your counselor affect you in your everyday activities?

**Wednesday – God's Payment Plan**

*"He came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay."* Anonymous

1. Please read Romans 11:35. What is Paul's point? How would you rephrase this in your own words?

2. Job 41:11 provides a graphic statement of why God does not owe anyone anything. In what ways do you make demands on God?

3. Psalm 145:8 tells us why God does things for us, and Luke 23:39-43 illustrates an instance of God giving his love freely. What did the thief have to offer Jesus? In light of Romans 11:35 and Job 41:11, why do you think Jesus responded as he did?

**Making it Personal:** God is the one who pays us out of his limitless riches simply because he loves us, not because he owes us anything. Take a moment to respond to his lavish gift.

**Thursday – From Him, Through Him, To Him**

*"In the beginning, God created ..."* Genesis 1:1

1. Please read Romans 11:36. How does this verse tie in with 1 Peter 4:11? What does this tell you about praising God in your everyday activities?

2. According to James 1:17-18, where does any good thing come from? Take a minute to list some of the good things you have received from God. Now take time to thank him for giving them to you.

**Digging Deeper:** Read John 1:1-3 (describing Jesus) and Revelation 4:9-11. How do these passages expand on Paul's short statement in Romans 11:36?

**Friday – Praiseworthy**

*"God does not need the universe as the universe needs Him"* Francis Schaeffer, *He is There and He is Not Silent*

1. Please read Isaiah 40:11-31 (which includes the verse Paul quoted in Romans 11:34). What characteristics of God can you list from this passage? Which ones are also found in Romans 11:33-36?

2. Job 40:1-2 sets up God's statement in Job 41:11 (the verse Paul quoted in Romans 11:35). How would you respond to someone who told you they thought Job's response in Job 42:1-3 was too extreme?

**For the Weekend:** Re-read Romans 11:33-36, Revelation 4:9-11 and Psalm 150. Spend time praising God this weekend in whatever way the Spirit guides you (John 14:16).