

For the week of March 4-10, 2017

Based on Pastor Tucker's message from March 3-4

Romans 11: The Proper Perspective

Best Way to Prepare for Your Group? Listen to the teaching and read the appropriate scripture. Please give emphasis to the latter. These notes are prepared on Fridays. Sometimes, the sermon gets modified right before service. So, allow for flexibility. Remember, your time together isn't meant to be a re-teaching of the most recent lesson. Instead, the discussion points and questions are designed to encourage group members to share insight and application of what they've learned from God's Word—and thereby grow closer to the Lord and each other.

[Format for the Evening]

WELCOME:

Get to know each other. Re-introduce yourselves if need be and welcome any newcomers. Invite those new to the group to share a little about their lives and Christian experience. Spend some time talking about real-life issues that may have come up during prayer or fellowship time the previous week. These Community Groups are more than Bible studies. They are designed to help believers form deep and lasting relationships.

KEY PASSAGE:

"Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off."—Romans 11:22

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Israel was a nation built on grace. They were freed from Egypt by grace, preserved in the wilderness by grace and given the Promised Land with cities built, fields planted, and wells dug all by God's grace. All that God required was that they trust in His kindness to give them what He said He would provide. However, human nature being what it is, the Children of Israel, like all people, wanted to exalt themselves. They want to be "as gods." That was Satan's great lie to Adam and Eve. Paul knows this tendency to pride is not a Jewish problem. It is a human problem. That's why he says to the Gentiles "don't boast! Don't be wise in your eyes!" Every good thing that's ever happened to humanity has been provided by God's grace—nothing else.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. How can a believer "fall from God's grace? What are some common pitfalls?
2. What is an indicator of a believer's appreciation of God's grace?
3. What is the antidote for a prideful attitude?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

God, in his holiness, is perfectly kind and perfectly strict. In our lives, God is plays the role of gardener or an arborist. A good gardener must cut off the dead branches or the tree will die. Conversely, to graft a

new branch in requires delicate care and patience. It is the work of a wise and knowledgeable master. God is a kind God, but His kindness isn't a blind benevolence. It would harm us if He was. That's why He is also an extremely just God. He can and will remove things that harm us if we allow Him.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Discuss what it means to be grafted into God's family.
2. What should be the attitude of a person who has come into God's Kingdom, not by Hebrew birthright, but by the saving grace of Jesus Christ?
3. Discuss how you maintain a balance of grace in your How does the balance apply in your relationships with other?

THINK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

Proper meditation on the complexity and mystery of God should lead us to worship Him more. The point of studying and learning and wrestling with truth is simply to know God better, so we can appreciate Him more. When our wonder at Him and His amazing grace grows, we want to worship God more. Worship is the bridge between theology (Romans 9-11) and application (Romans 12). Without the connecting link of worship, theology will be prideful and/or the application in our life will be burdensome.

TALK ABOUT THE TEACHING:

1. Discuss the benefits of God's sovereignty in your life. Note times when you have seen His purposes revealed in surprising ways.
2. Think about the wonder of God's salvation. Share a little about what it means to you.
3. How do God's sovereignty and salvation stir a spirit of worship in your heart?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY:

Please pray that God would show believers how to live with an ongoing Spirit of worship. May they understand their dependence upon His grace and live in the strength of His power, fearing nothing exception separation from Him and His perfect and joyful will for their lives. Pray that a Spirit of humility will infuse everything we do, and that people will see the simplicity of our hope in Jesus and be drawn to His Kingdom. Pray for an ever-deepening appreciation of the Lord and all He has done for us by His power and grace. Ask that the Lord will help us translate our love into lives of worship.

TRANSITION TO REAL LIFE:

Before you head home take some time to talk about the week ahead, make note of any needs and prayer requests, and enjoy each other's company. That's what family does.

Note: Pastor Tucker welcomes your feedback. Please email him at tucker@calvaryboise.com with your insight.

Weekly Prayer Requests

“Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.” – Romans 11:22

Once more, never think that you can live to God by your own power or strength; but always look to and rely on him for assistance, yea, for all strength and grace. There is not greater truth than this, that we can do nothing of ourselves (John 15:5, I Corinthians 3:5). Yet nothing but our own experience can effectually teach this to us. Indeed, we are a long time learning that *all* our salvation and strength is in God. This is a life that I think no uncovered man can possibly live. And yet it is a life that every godly soul is pressing after in some measure. Let it be your great concern then to devote yourself and your all to God. –David Brainerd’s Journal

Our Core Group:

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Our International Missions:

- Please pray for Pastor Guna’s son, Pastor Henry, who works diligently in northern India and has been having some issues with local authorities. Last week he had to meet with officials. They stated their intentions to visit the work in Varanasi very soon. Pray that Henry is allowed to continue to share the Good News of Jesus.

Our Local Ministry: Hospitality

- Please pray that the work on the new Welcome Booths will be completed quickly and that people will be drawn to these areas to meet with pastors and other church leaders.
- Pray that visitors and family members will experience many divine appointments and that they will be ready to encourage one another in the Lord.
- Pray for a strong and enthusiastic team of greeters, ushers, drivers, and prayer warriors.