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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Open your Bibles to Romans 11:33—12:2. Remembering that the Bible's division into chapters and verses is artificial, note that Romans 12:1 begins with "Therefore..." Whenever we read "therefore" in the Bible, we should ask, "*What's that 'therefore' there for?*" Romans 11:33-36 therefore gives the rationale for the commands found in 12:1-2. How is God described in Romans 11:33?

Romans 11:34-35 asks several questions—all of which are answered the same way. What is that answer?

Romans 11:36 tells us **why** the answer the questions in v. 34-35 is a resounding "**No!**" Why is that?

As we approach that "*therefore*" in Romans 12:1, summarize what you've learned from 11:33-36. **What** does Paul urge us all to **do** as a result of truths found in 11:33-36?

Why is God's **mercy** (12:1) essential to/necessary for us presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice?

Sometimes we wonder how God evaluates our worship, don't we? Romans 12:1 describes an act of worship that we're **able to have absolute confidence pleases God**. Have **you** done that?

According to Romans 12:2a, what continuing actions result from presenting our bodies to God in worship?

We all want to know God's will for our lives. Observe the words, "*so that*", in the middle of Romans 12:2. What must you **do** in order to know God's will (and to know that it is "*good, acceptable, and perfect*")?

Are **you** doing that? If so, **how** (be specific).

Application-Challenge

- Let's **proclaim** the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Handle threats to worship by being **united**.
- God calls us to **remember** all He has done.
- God wants us to have an **eternal** perspective on worship.



Sermon Summary

Key Text: Psalm 63

The key to real life change is found in practicing the spiritual disciplines that Jesus practiced Himself, which He taught His disciples. So far we have talked about Bible study, prayer, serving, and fellowship. Today we'll learn about developing a lifestyle of worship. What is worship? How do we define it; how do we practice it? In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for worship means "to bow down, to lay flat on the ground." In the New Testament, the most common Greek word for worship means to "kiss the hand, to fall on the knees". Other Greek words for worship mean to "pay homage" and "to render honor." All of these come into the English language as "worship" which essentially means "worthiness". True, God-honoring worship involves living in a God-pleasing manner (Romans 12:1-2). Worship shouldn't be something we do occasionally—it is to be our lifestyle. All that we do should be done to glorify Him. He is to have first place in everything. The way the world looks at things must not shape how we respond to God. We have to be changed—transformed. This happens as our minds are renewed. Only then will we be able to test and approve what God's good, pleasing and perfect will is.

It's easy to be impacted by the world and get off-course. My brother worked as a longshoreman, and he told me that it takes two miles for a huge freight ship to make a turn. So it's critical for the captain to be constantly aware of shifting tides, changing weather patterns, or even the slightest shift in the winds. Any of those could put the ship miles of course. I fear that as we navigate our lives, we have not been paying close enough attention, and we drift off course. We get side-tracked; the world takes our attention hostage. Do you need proof? Ask yourself: "What has LeBron James done for you that Jesus hasn't?!" Other times we're too tired or distracted to worship God as he deserves. The world also makes us view worship through a consumer lens. We come as critics with our own lists of preferences: the sermon was either too long or too short. The music was either too loud or too quiet. The band didn't play any songs I like. I fear that we have forgotten that worship is not about us and what we like or dislike. It is about the God who created us. God desires our sincere worship (Psalm 63:1-9). Do you ever find yourself just going through the motions as we gather? Do you ever forget that God is our audience?

Worship is our wonder-filled response to the God who rescued us. As you think about God's greatness, His grace and mercy, does it manifest itself in daily worship? That is what God deserves and what we will be doing for all of eternity. We value other things more than we value God (athletes, entertainers, even our jobs). We come to worship tired and distracted. We come to worship as consumers. God desires our sincere worship; he isn't impressed by our religious rituals. God wants us to worship Him as a lifestyle. If we do not worship with this in mind, whether individually or corporately, how can others see that joy in our lives?

Beginning this week!


PointMan

Join other men as TCC's PointMan Men's Ministry launches two new opportunities to discuss and apply *Change Me: The Ultimate Life-Change Handbook*.

- Each Wednesday, beginning February 19th
- Choose your best time: 6³⁰am (at **T**riangle **C**ommunity **C**hurch)
- \$15 (book) 7⁰⁰pm (at a home in the Bass Lake area)
- For more info: Go to: TCC.org Keyword: ▶**PointMan**



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
We can use it to explore biblical worship...*

Monday—Psalm 63:1-5

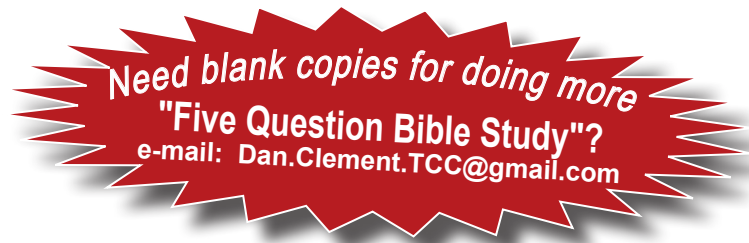
Tuesday—Psalm 63:6-11

Wednesday—Psalm 96:1-6

Thursday—Psalm 96:7-10

Friday—Psalm 96:11-13

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Timothy 4:7-11.



Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?