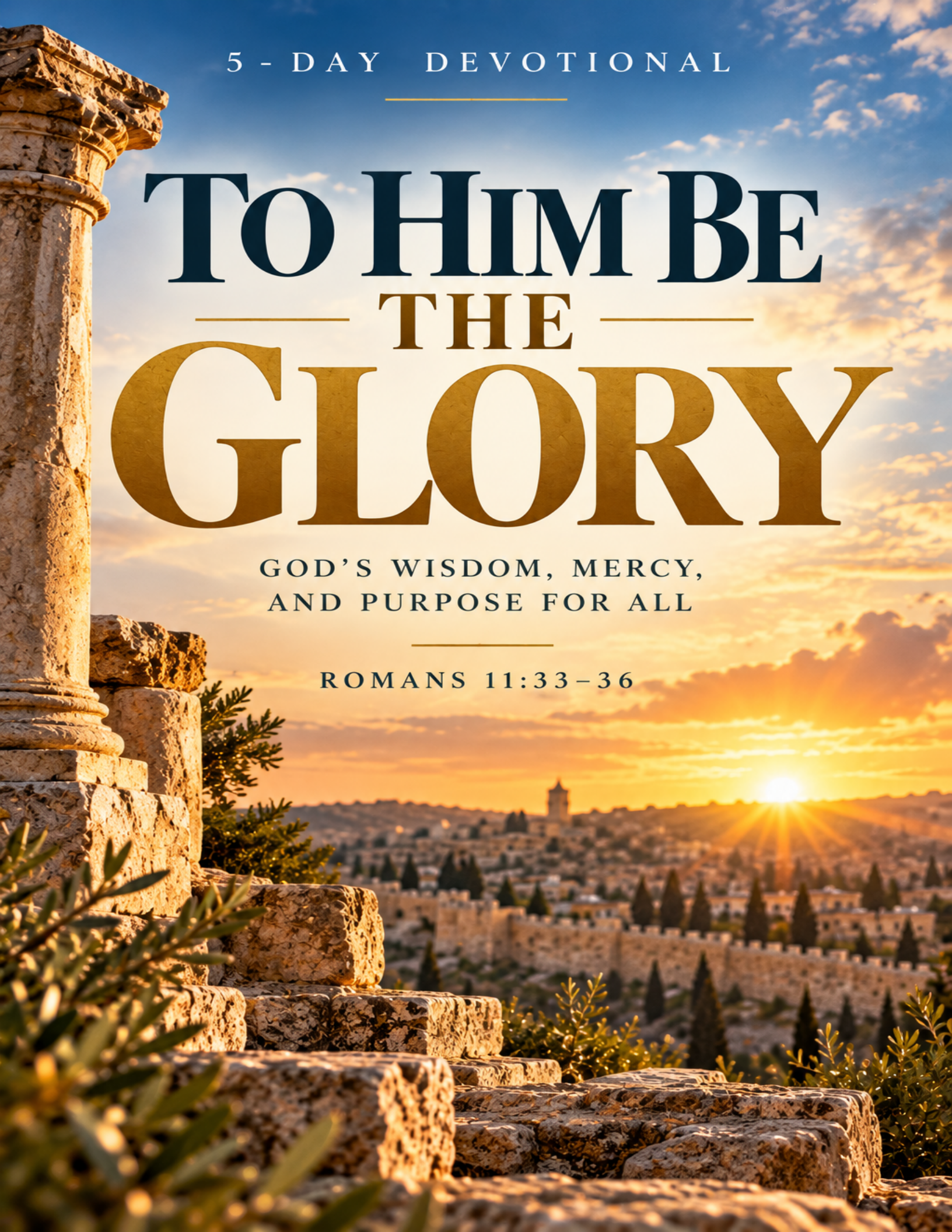




5 - DAY DEVOTIONAL

TO HIM BE THE GLORY

GOD'S WISDOM, MERCY,
AND PURPOSE FOR ALL

ROMANS 11:33-36

Day 1 – When God’s Wisdom Is Beyond Our Understanding

Reading: Romans 11:33

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!” — Romans 11:33

Reflection

Have you ever wished God would explain what He’s doing?

Maybe you’ve prayed about something for months, but the situation hasn’t changed. You know God is faithful, yet you struggle to understand His ways.

Paul understood that God’s wisdom was greater than his own.

After three chapters explaining God’s faithfulness to Israel and His mercy toward the Gentiles, Paul suddenly breaks into praise.

He doesn’t have every question answered. But what God has revealed leaves him overwhelmed with wonder.

God’s wisdom is deeper than anything we can fully comprehend.

That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t ask questions or seek understanding. Paul himself has spent considerable time doing exactly that.

But there comes a point when we must recognize the limits of our understanding.

We may not know why God allows certain things or how His purposes will unfold.

Yet **our ability to trust God doesn’t have to depend upon our ability to understand everything He’s doing.**

Our confidence rests in the God who has made Himself known.

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I struggling to understand what God is doing?
2. Have I allowed unanswered questions to weaken my trust in Him?
3. How does remembering God’s wisdom help me respond to uncertainty?

Practice

Think of one situation where you wish God would explain His plans. Bring it before Him in prayer. Instead of demanding an explanation, ask Him to help you trust His wisdom.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Your wisdom is greater than my understanding. When I cannot see what You’re doing, help me remember Your faithfulness and trust You. Amen.

Day 2 – Does God Need Our Advice?

Reading: Romans 11:34–35

“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?” — Romans 11:34

Reflection

Have you ever prayed about something while already knowing exactly how you wanted God to answer?

We bring Him our problems, but sometimes we’ve already decided what He ought to do.

There’s nothing wrong with telling God what we desire. He invites us to bring our concerns before Him.

But **there’s a difference between bringing our requests to God and expecting Him to follow our instructions.**

Paul reminds us that no one can fully know God’s mind or serve as His counselor.

And that includes how God shows mercy.

We’re grateful when God forgives us. But what about someone who has hurt us? Someone we think has already been given enough chances?

Sometimes we begin deciding who deserves another opportunity.

But God’s mercy isn’t ours to distribute.

If God’s mercy depended upon our judgment about who deserved it, where would that leave us?

None of us could claim to deserve it.

Recognizing that should make us more humble in our prayers and more gracious toward others.

Reflection Questions

1. Have I been expecting God to answer my prayers according to my plans?
2. Is there someone I struggle to believe deserves another opportunity?
3. How does remembering my own need for mercy change my attitude?

Practice

Think of someone toward whom you’ve struggled to show mercy. Pray for them today. Ask God to help you trust His wisdom rather than insisting upon your own judgment.

Prayer

Lord, forgive me when I act as though I know better than You. Teach me to trust Your wisdom and remember the mercy You’ve shown me. Amen.

Day 3 – From Him. Through Him. To Him.

Reading: Romans 11:36

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things." — Romans 11:36

Reflection

How often do you stop to think about how much you depend upon God?

We make plans, work hard, and take responsibility for our lives. And sometimes, without realizing it, we begin acting as though everything depends upon us.

But Paul reminds us of something much greater.

From Him. God is the source of all things. Everything we have ultimately comes from Him. Even our salvation began with His gracious initiative.

Through Him. God didn't create the world and then step away. All creation continues to depend upon Him. Every breath we take is a reminder that we cannot sustain ourselves.

To Him. Everything ultimately points back to God. His wisdom, faithfulness, and mercy reveal His glory.

That changes how we understand our lives.

Our abilities, opportunities, and resources aren't simply things we've earned. They're gifts entrusted to us.

And if everything comes from God and depends upon Him, shouldn't the way we live point back to Him?

We aren't the center of the story. God is.

And that's not something to resent. It's something to celebrate.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have I been living as though everything depends upon me?
2. What gifts or opportunities have I forgotten to recognize as coming from God?
3. How can my life point others toward His glory?

Practice

Think of three things God has entrusted to you. Thank Him for each one. Then choose one way you can use something He's given you to serve someone else today.

Prayer

Father, everything I have comes from You. Thank You for sustaining me by Your grace. Help me use what You've entrusted to me for Your glory. Amen.

Day 4 – More Than Words of Praise

Reading: Romans 11:36; Romans 12:1

"To Him be the glory forever. Amen." — Romans 11:36

Reflection

What does it actually mean to give God glory?

We sing songs about His greatness. We thank Him in prayer. We gather with other believers to worship Him.

But what happens when the worship service is over?

Paul ends Romans 11 with a declaration of praise. After considering God's wisdom, faithfulness, and mercy, he gives all glory to God.

But he doesn't stop there.

At the beginning of Romans 12, Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices because of God's mercy.

The mercy we've received becomes the reason we offer our lives to Him.

That means glorifying God isn't limited to what happens on Sunday morning.

It includes how we treat someone who has hurt us, how we use our time, and how we respond when things don't go our way.

Showing mercy doesn't mean pretending that wrong never happened. But it does mean allowing God's mercy toward us to shape how we respond to others.

Giving glory to God is more than something we say. It's allowing who He is to shape how we live.

Reflection Questions

1. Does my everyday life reflect the praise I offer God on Sunday?
2. Where is God calling me to demonstrate His mercy toward someone else?
3. What part of my life have I been reluctant to offer Him?

Practice

Choose one ordinary activity today—your work, a conversation, or a responsibility. Before you begin, pray: "Lord, help me honor You in this." Then approach that activity as an opportunity to glorify God.

Prayer

Lord, may my worship be more than words. Let Your mercy shape my actions, my relationships, and my choices so that my life brings glory to You. Amen.

Day 5 – A Life That Gives God Glory

Reading: Romans 11:33–36; Romans 12:1

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” — Romans 11:36

Reflection

What happens when we begin to recognize just how merciful God has been to us?

Paul spent three chapters explaining God's faithfulness, wisdom, and mercy. But when he reached the end, he didn't celebrate how much he had figured out.

He gave glory to God.

Paul recognized that everything began with God, depended upon God, and ultimately pointed back to Him.

And that included salvation.

We didn't earn God's love. We couldn't place Him under obligation. Yet He showed us mercy through Jesus Christ.

How should we respond to mercy like that?

Paul answers that question at the beginning of Romans 12. Because of God's mercy, we're called to offer our lives to Him.

Not to earn His favor, but because of what He's already done.

Worship is more than recognizing God's greatness. It's responding to His greatness with our lives.

We may not understand everything God is doing. But we know enough about His faithfulness and mercy to trust Him.

And we have every reason to give Him glory.

Reflection Questions

1. How has studying God's mercy changed the way I see Him?
2. Am I more focused on what I understand about God or on trusting Him?
3. What would it look like to offer my whole life to Him?

Practice

Take a few moments to reflect on what God has taught you through Romans 11. Then pray through these three statements: *From You are all things. Through You are all things. To You are all things.* Ask God to help you live today for His glory.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your wisdom, faithfulness, and mercy. Help me trust You when I don't understand and offer my life in grateful worship. To You be the glory forever. Amen.