



STUDY GUIDE

January 1



THEOLOGY
ON TAP

A series in
Theology
*New Year,
New Covenant*
1 Cor. 11:23-26

THEOLOGY ON TAP

A STUDY on Theology

January 1

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Written by TJ Johnson

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New Year, New Covenant

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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# New Year, New Covenant

On the night Jesus was arrested, He sat down with His disciples in an upper room and ate a meal together. It was a Passover meal which meant all types of delicious dishes. Roasted lamb, stewed beans, freshly plucked olives dripping in oil, bread (unleavened, of course) straight out of the oven, and large, sweet, plump, syrupy regional dates. Since Passover is a yearly event, the disciples had sat through dozens of Passovers from childhood to adulthood.

This was not like waking up on Christmas morning and wondering what presents awaited you under the tree. There was no mystery in Passover. It was as routine as brushing your teeth. You retold the same story. You ate the same foods. You sang the same songs. And prayed the same prayers. So on this night, the disciples had expected the usual. Handwashing. Breaking of Matzah. A telling of the God delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt. A meal. Wine. Bitter herbs. More wine. Prayer. Desert. More wine. Recounting the ten plagues. More wine. A song. The end.

And yet, on this night, after the meal, when Jesus took the third cup (The cup of redemption) something unexpected happened. Jesus broke with tradition. He did something NEW. Instead of saying, "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm," he says, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood."

New. We all like new things. New cars. New jewelry. New clothing. New phones. New is good. So, a new covenant probably sounds like a good thing to you, even if you don't quite understand what a covenant is. Oh, but to be a disciple around the table that night and to hear Jesus say these words must have been more exciting than any "new" gift you can dream up. This new covenant was something the people had been waiting on for a very long time.

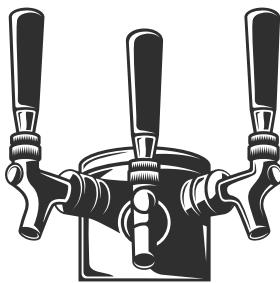
# New Year, New Covenant

Think with me. We have been waiting three LONG years for Covid restrictions to subside. Longing for the day when we could stop scanning QR codes, board a plane without a 48 hour negative Covid test, or travel back into the country without quarantine. Do you remember how you felt when you heard the news that day had finally arrived? Do you remember the joy of your long wait being over? Now imagine waiting not three years but three HUNDRED years. This is how the disciples must have felt when they heard Jesus say, "New Covenant." Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all prophesied about a time when God would do something NEW. When God would give the people a NEW covenant. And this new covenant would usher in a NEW era and make God's followers NEW creations with a NEW heart and a NEW Spirit.

That long awaited day had finally arrived. And it was all made possible because of what Jesus was ABOUT to do after the meal. Jesus was about to give His life as a ransom for sin. Jesus was about to shed his blood, for there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood. This Sunday we will explore this new covenant and then remember Jesus' death as we drink from the cup and eat the bread.

Made new with you,  
Pastor TJ

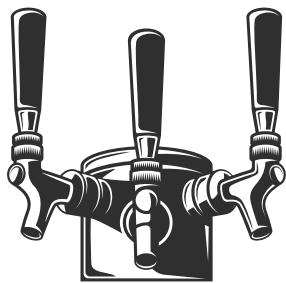
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The new covenant

Discussion Questions

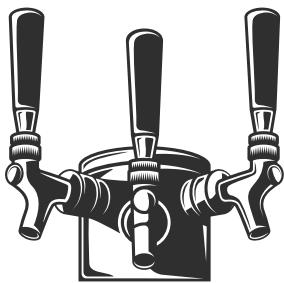
1. List the five Old Testament covenants mentioned in the sermon, give some modern covenants today and discuss the differences between a Biblical covenant and a contract.
2. Why do you think God chose to relate to humanity through covenant?
3. Read Hosea 6:7, Romans 5:12, Genesis 2:16–17, and Genesis 3:16-19. What was the covenant blessing and curse in the Adamic covenant and what specifically was God teaching humanity about Himself through this covenant?
4. How did Adam fail to keep this covenant, what was the result (for him, humanity, and all creation), what gracious act and promise does God give to Adam and Eve and in what way did this foreshadow Jesus (aka – how did Jesus fully uphold this covenant)?
5. Read Genesis 9:9-16. What covenant promises does God make to humanity through the Noahic covenant and what is its sign (what does this teach us about God)?
6. In what ways is Jesus foreshadowed in this covenant?
7. Read Genesis 12:1-3, 15:17-18. What are the covenant promises in the Abrahamic covenant and what does this teach us about God?
8. In what ways is Jesus foreshadowed in this covenant?



The new covenant

Discussion Questions

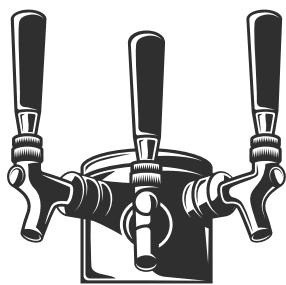
9. Read Exodus 19:4-6. What are the covenant promises and curses in the Mosaic Covenant and what does this teach us about God?
10. How does Israel fail to keep the covenant, what is the result of their failure, and in what ways does Jesus keep the covenant?
11. In what ways is Jesus foreshadowed in this covenant?
12. Read Psalm 89:3-4, 2 Samuel 7:4-17. What are the covenant promises in the Davidic Covenant and what does this teach us about God?
13. How does David and his offspring fail to keep the covenant, what is the result of their failure, and in what ways does Jesus keep this covenant?
14. In what ways is Jesus foreshadowed in this covenant?
15. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:24-28, Isaiah 42, Luke 1:72, 1 Corinthians 11:25. What are the covenant promises in the New Testament, in what ways is Jesus the mediator of this covenant, and what does it teach us about God?
16. In what way is the New Covenant similar and different from the Old Covenants?
17. How is the New Covenant applied to people today and what are some common wrong ways people try to obtain the New Covenant?



The new covenant

Discussion Questions

18. What is the significance of remembering when we partake of the Lord's Supper?
19. What does it mean day to day to live under the New Covenant?
20. Compare Revelation 21:1-7 to Jeremiah 31:31-34. What aspects of the New Covenant are not yet fully realized and how can we live in anticipation of that day?



The new covenant

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

March 12



THEOLOGY
ON TAP

Theology Why Worship Matters

Romans 1: 18-25

Why Worship Matters

Romans 1:18-25

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

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# Why Worship Matters

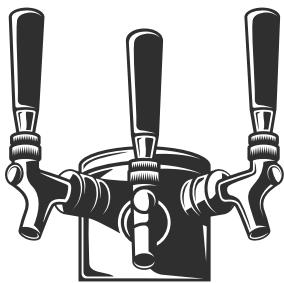
This Sunday we will pause our study of the Gospel of Luke for another Theology on Tap. This time we are looking at Why Worship Matters.

What is the biggest problem with the world? Is it poverty, famine, disease, or war? According to Romans 1 the root of every problem is wrong worship. Humanity's hearts were darkened and thoughts became futile when we chose to worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.

In order to understand this we must first understand what worship is. Worship is not a genre of music. It is not simply a religious ritual. Worship is intrinsic to what it means to be a human being. We express it in a variety of ways, but what (or who) we choose to worship will determine the kind of life we live and the kind of people we will be.

Worshipping with you,

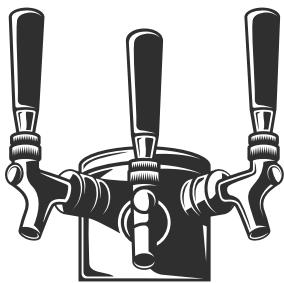
Pastor Ben



*The truth about God*

## Discussion Questions

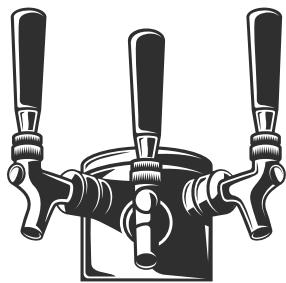
1. Summarize Romans 1:1-17 and explain how it connects to Romans 1:18-25.
2. How would you define worship and what verses have most helped form your understanding of worship? (Verses to consider: Genesis 22:5; Exodus 4:31; 34:8, 14; Deut. 12; 1 Chronicles 16; Nehemiah 9; Job 1:20; Psalm 29:2; 66:4; Isaiah 44; Matt. 15:9; John 4; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 14; Hebrews 9; 12:28; Rev. 4:10; 5:14; 7:11)
3. What are some common misconceptions Christians might have about worship today? (aka worship is only singing, worship is dependent upon the style or quality of music, low lights and ambient music enhances worship, worship is only about the intent of the worshipper, etc.)
4. Read Romans 1:1-7. What truth does this teach us about the One we are called to worship? (There is a lot you can discuss here: Trinity, role of Scripture in informing us of who God is, world-wide God vs tribal deity, God's love, God's sovereignty, God's holiness, etc.)
5. Read Romans 1:18. What is the connection with wrath and worship? What do we and the world need to know about God's wrath against unrighteousness? Why do you think some Christians today are hesitant to talk about God's wrath?



*The truth about God*

## Discussion Questions

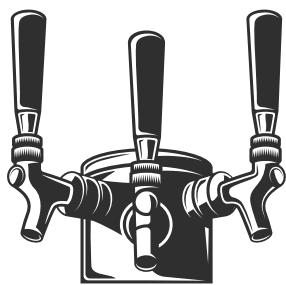
6. Read Romans 1:19-20. In what ways has God revealed Himself to humanity? (See also Hebrews 1:1-3).
7. In what ways (and why) did people during Paul's day suppress the truth about God? In what ways (and why) do people suppress the truth about God today?
8. Read Romans 1:21. What does it look like to daily honor and give thanks to God? (Get personal, what has God done in your life that deserves honor and thanks and how can you give that to Him).
9. Read Romans 1:23. Does humanity still struggle with idol worship (idolatry)? Explain. (Idolatry is always about worship...what did the people hope to gain from the idol they worshipped, this is what they worshipped. What do we give our devotion to and what do we hope to gain from it).
10. Take some time to discuss the comparison Paul gives us between glory/images immortal/mortal. How do you experience God's glory and immortality today and in what ways is that superior to any other thing you might be tempted to worship?
11. Read Romans 1:24. Why do you think God "gave them up" instead of forcing them to worship Him?



*The truth about God*

## Discussion Questions

12. What were the “lusts of the heart” and “dishonoring of the body” during Paul’s day? What are they today?
13. Read Romans 1:25. What truth(s) about God do people most readily reject today and why? What do they “exchange” it for?
14. Why do you think Paul goes to such great lengths to emphasize God as creator? What does this have to do with worship?



*The truth about God*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

## Prayer Requests

## Praise Reports