

THE MYSTERY REVEALED

--ROMANS 16:25-27--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we come to the closing verses of Romans, a beautiful doxology that praises God for what He has done through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This doxology by Paul is unique in that while he praises the Lord God he also repeats and sums up the major themes of this letter. He focuses in on three things: the Gospel that establishes men, the Gospel that proclaims its theme, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel that reveals the mystery of God's redemption for all mankind.

I. THE GOSPEL THAT ESTABLISHES (Romans 16:25a)

- a. Paul begins his praise to God by praising Him that He is able to _____ men by the Gospel.
- b. Paul in praising God is saying that God is able, in other words, God has sufficient _____ to establish those who trust in Him according to the true Gospel.
- c. No unbeliever can be established this way, they cannot be mentally settled because they do not _____ God.
(2 Timothy 1:12)
- d. In this first verse of our passage this morning Paul refers to the Gospel through which God is able to establish us as "_____ Gospel." (Galatians 1:11-12)
- e. Wherever and whenever this Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed, God can and does use it to change a vile sinner into a _____ of God.
- f. If you remember that was the theme of the first three chapters of this letter, that man had suppressed the _____ about God.
(Romans 1:16; Jude 24b)

II. THE GOSPEL'S THEME (Romans 16:25b)

- a. There is only one Gospel that God is able to use to establish men and that is the Gospel of _____.
(1 Corinthians 9:16; 1 Corinthians 1:23-24; Romans 10:17)

- b. From the end of chapter 3 through chapter 8 of Romans Paul describes almost every _____ that comes to those who have received the preaching of Jesus Christ and have come to Him in faith and been established by Him. (Romans 3:2; 3:24; 5:1; 8:39; Philippians 3:7-11)

III. THE GOSPEL THAT REVEALS (Romans 16:25c-27)

- a. The Gospel by which we are established by God, and which proclaims its theme, Jesus Christ, is the same Gospel, Paul writes, that _____ the mystery of God which has been kept secret for long ages past.
- b. The mystery that the Gospel reveals is God's _____ of salvation for Gentiles as well as Jews. (Ephesians 3:3-6)
- c. Paul writes in Romans 16 that the mystery that, "*...now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made _____ to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;*" (Romans 16:26, NASB95) (Isaiah 53:11; Jeremiah 31b, 33b; 1 Peter 1:10-11)
- d. When God made His covenant with Abraham, the father of God's chosen people Israel, even at the very first He made mention that His offering of grace would be for the _____ world. (Genesis 12:3b, Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Acts 13:46-47)
- e. This truth that salvation is for _____, Jew and Gentile was the subject of Paul's third part of Romans, chapters 9-16.
(Romans 11:25)
- f. Having established that salvation is for all, both Jew and Gentile, Paul begins _____ Christians how to act, how to strive to live righteously.
- g. Paul ends his doxology and this letter with _____ "*to the only wise God...*" (Romans 16:27a, NASB95)
(Ephesians 3:8-11)

CONCLUSION:

Thus, we come to the end of the book of Romans, a book that has become the bedrock of New Testament Theology. The overarching

theme of this book is the righteousness that comes from God through Jesus Christ; the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

With that overarching theme no wonder Paul closed with a doxology of praise to the only wise God through Jesus Christ be the glory forever. Amen.

Martin Luther wrote concerning the book of Romans that was so important to him. He wrote, “This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.”*

My prayer and my hope is that I have only whetted your appetite for this book, and you return to it again and again learning like Martin Luther that it can never be read or pondered too much and that the more time you spend reading and pondering the more precious it will become and the better it will taste.

“Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 16:25–27, NASB95)

* Luther, Martin, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*. A new abridged translation by J. Theodore Mueller. Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan Publishing House, 1954.