

Perfect Security

Romans 16:25-27

The Rubik's Cube was invented by Erno Rubik in Germany in the early 1970s. It has become the world's favorite puzzle. Over 350 million of these colorful square blocks have been sold. The difficulty of getting its 6 sides back together is a great challenge. Many never unify the white, red, blue, orange, green, and yellow once it has been scrambled.

In many ways, the last three verses are like a Rubik's cube. It looks one way from one angle, and another from the other side.

From the angle of God's glory we can feel the red heat and rapture of the unique author, Paul, here.

From the golden heights of God's plan, the purposeful, wise and perfect gospel for all nations dazzles us, that the whole world might have faith.

Or consider the life-giving Gospel itself – producing life and abundance wherever it touches, turning deadness into a lush, green paradise.

Or we can consider how the gospel mystery has come into this world from the blue skies above, over a long period of time in the OT and now revealed in these last days by the command of the eternal God who sits above the circle of the earth.

Or do we consider the placid but powerful nature of Christian stability? The white light shining upon the peaceful brow of the believer's soul – held in the very hand of the triune God?

Or how could we leave out the orange sunset that this verse is to this most amazing book? How do you end a book like Romans? Well, like this of course! With a doxology!

But there are many kinds of doxologies, of praises, of adoration to the King of kings. And this one is unique.

Everything you see here is built around that opening word: “establish you” in the NASB.

Who alone can establish a sinner for heaven? None other than the mighty Father, strong to save, that's who!

Each and every believer then can find himself or herself as a stone strongly fitted into this doxology; this 'glory to God' in the highest.

Doxology is at the pivot of this book – at the end of chapter 11 and flowing into doxological living in chapter 12.

Paul returns to this theme, with the establishment of all those who believe the gospel.

This is powerful gospel stability then.

This is Bible stability – it unfolds from the revelation of the mystery in the OT now unveiled to us in Christ's coming.

This is a divinely purposed stability – the eternal God commands it! The Lord Himself, and not the hand of creature upholds.

This is an openly offered stability – it is not something hard to reach; it is not for a select few. It is given upon the easiest of terms, upon faith. And God not only encourages this but commands every soul to come and find peace in him! By faith alone!

Then all of it is wrapped in the bow of how this everlasting stability brings glory to the triune God. All his attributes, and especially wisdom, are engaged and exalted as Paul exclaims from his soul!

It really is a striking passage when we think about it.

To be established is to be steadfast, fixed, immovable, firmly planted. In the book of Acts it is used of small churches like a seedling growing into a tree. The tree metaphor contrasts with the grass in Isaiah 40.

Man is like grass, made from the dust! We are flesh, weak, frail, unsustainable! Dust in the wind.

How could such creatures be made strong? and sinful dust at that!?

Oh how we need this stability! Look at the world in which we live! We are tossed about by the winds of the economy, inflation, wars, bad leadership, politics, and

every form of evil. We are fickle and easily blown over by slightest breeze it seems.

The gospel changes all of this! Jesus does not break the bruised reed or extinguish the smoking flax. And this doxology celebrates this change! This change which Paul has been teaching for 16 chapters – the power and righteousness of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Oh the stability! Oh the surety! Oh the security! Oh the certainty! Oh the guarantee! Oh the warranty! of salvation found in Him alone!

You are his! In his bosom, in his hand, his heart, his covenant - brought over from his wrath into his grace and safety.

Luke uses this word ‘fixed’ for the great gulf between heaven and hell in chapter 16, between the rich man and Lazarus. The gospel’s ‘fix’ is greater than that gap!

Do you know that you deserve hell for your sins? Do you not know that there are people in hell right now with less sins than you? What can keep you out if they are there?

But the good news is there are people in heaven right now who had more sins than you! How do they get there? And get there so safely, so assuredly? That is what Paul is praising the Lord about here.

First point then as Paul has it is the preaching of the gospel which centers on Jesus the Christ.

He doesn’t say merely, the gospel of Jesus, of which Paul is not ashamed in chapter one. No. He says the preaching. Why?

Well, because it was through preaching that man sinned. It was through the ear-gate that the serpent beguiled Eve and led Adam astray.

During the reformation in England, a powerful preacher, Hugh Latimer, was addressing a congregation of ministers, and he asked them, ‘who is the greatest preacher in all of Britain’? All these preachers – their ears perked up. Who is it, they wondered. His answer surprises us still. He said it was the devil! The devil is the greatest preacher ever! He reaches so effectively the hearts of men! He knows

what moves us, and he leads us into his bondage, into his kingdom, and he seduces the best of men. The devil preaches every day to the ears and souls of all mankind.

Who can compete with a fallen angel? Or as Spurgeon put it, how can we possibly defeat such a roaring lion as Satan? Get a bigger lion! The Lion of the tribe of Judah is far greater than that false lion, the devil! His preaching pulls men up by the roots and transplants them with a new nature in a new kingdom of grace and of love! Our feet are established on an unshakeable Rock, and eternal Rock, and that Rock is Christ!

Preaching is not just about words, letters, syllables. It is Christ Himself declaring Himself to sinners, and saying come to me, I will give you rest. And He does! Oh, how he does!

So that is the first point.

The gospel preaching heralds the glad tidings we have heard all throughout the book of Romans. A righteousness we could never produce; a righteousness of God in his own Son; a righteousness apart from our own good works – of which we have none! We are given a risen and once-for-all crucified life, by faith - Romans 6. It gives you a struggling and imperfect life by faith - Romans 7. Often disappointing! At least its life! A life that is indwelt, a hope-filled, adopted, all things working for our good life, a predestined life, a who can be against us life in Christ, a God who is giving us all things in Christ life! That is Romans 8, the best chapter in all the Bible!

This gospel and no other – the apostolic gospel does all these things. Nothing in science or philosophy or astrology or the things of history can do this! This is otherwise hidden unless God reveals. And He has spoken in these last day in his Son - Hebrews 1.

So our second point is that having eternal life that is in God's Son is found only in God's book. And this saving gospel is revealed as never before!

The gospel is both so new and so old! It is from before the foundation of the world, foreseen by the Prophets, witnessed by them who saw these coming gospel days.

Some things were marvelously revealed though – in Isaiah 53 and Ps. 22. But “how” it would come to pass was not always so clear.

So know that your stability depends on nothing less than the eternal unchangeable Word of an eternal unchangeable God.

God has not trusted his saving of you to any creature, even to the angels themselves. You dare not trust any other foundation than this since God does not entrust your safekeeping to less!

"How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord..."

God has shown us the way to Himself and to Heaven in a book! His Book! No self-spun webs of the creature's minds, which must by definition be weak. There is no good news there!

No – this book is the gate of paradise, the door of heaven, the hand of God opened freely to you, in written letters and words, pulling us to himself!

What a surety is found in the Bible alone!

The famous French skeptic Voltaire predicted the Bible would be extinct and vanish in one generation. 50 years after his death, his own home was used as a printing house for Bibles!

Hammer away ye hostile hands – your hammers break, God's anvil stands!

And yet so many are looking elsewhere... anywhere else! Oh is there anything so sad as that?!

Now after the gospel preaching and the Bible establishment we come to eternal God's purpose to do all this, to give this stability.

God *commands* this.

God commands the gospel!

This is not law as we usually think, but rather God's will, His purpose, his order. God himself decrees all men everywhere to repent and believe and come and find this establishment!

That means this is not a suggestion or a 'hope so' or a 'maybe' or a 'possibly'!

The sovereign perfect God has commanded and makes it firm.

John 6:37 says all will come to him whom the Father gives to the Son.

This is God's side of things and no other will come.

But to us, it means we will not at all be cast out who commands this very thing of coming to the Father through the Son. He is such a Father who cannot let us go.

All us are falling by our sins. We must fall. But who can save such sinners? Peter on the water shouts, "Save, Lord"! This God commands, "Live" in Ezekiel 16, and we must live!

So salvation hinges on Him and not us. It is He who has communicated this so richly to us, so powerfully!

It is as though He says: "You depend not on yourself but Me - the God who cannot lie, the God who always speaks truth, the God who has sworn by himself to save you, who has withheld nothing, who has taken an oath on himself (Gen. 15), who has given his own Son's precious blood – for an unbreakable covenant bond!"

God's will is most rock solid. "I give unto them eternal life, and no man can pluck them out of my hand!" What tremendous truth! What a tremendous grip! What a tremendous comfort!

Now the fourth and final point is the universality of the gospel, made known to all the nations. This too lends stability. The fact that the gospel is for everybody and does not run distinguish according to economic, education, privilege, cast, races, etc tells us the gospel can save all. Pentecost is for all!!

So if this stability of the all-wise God is unto all and for all, as God has made his Son Lord and Christ – what achievement must we perform in order to receive this? What must we do to gain His heavenly hall? And the answer is that it is all a gift!!! It is all of grace!!! It is ALL OF FAITH!!!

Receive, trust, rest in him. When we believe upon him, receive him, this transforms you to be like him - inside and out!

God gives all things to bring us to Himself from first to last. This is not at all in our own power even to believe!

In this way there is no room for our boasting; all the praise, honor and glory goes to God in Christ. Faith is only the foot that runs to Jesus for life, for eternal bread, for everlasting waters.

And God saves millions of people from trillions of sins unto a perfect redemption. He is reconciled!

So Gospel stability, Scripture stability, Commanded or decreed stability, and universal worldwide stability on such easy terms (faith). This last is something of the capstone as God's own glory is at stake!

See how whole-hearted this all is on His part. Know that there is no loss on his part to show grace to billions. There is no depletion of his majesty but rather a display of God's manifold wisdom to all the universe, to all the angels, to all the demons, to all world! God fully rejoices in this! Glory! Glory! Glory! to the triune God! Forever, and ever and ever!

Oh friends, what will they do, what will you do, without Jesus Christ? what will you do without the gospel preached? without the Bible? Without him? They will perish! You will, you must perish! Turn to Him now, today.

He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation. (2Co 6:2 NKJ)

Hear Him today!

[the opposite of this! What is the malediction of this verse? Now unto the devil who has deceived and is deceiving you, into thinking you are just fine without the gospel, without the preaching of Jesus Christ, has blinded you to the tremendous revelation of the mystery of his Son - you mock the Book of books, and spurn the Apostles and the Prophets, and for what? The idiocy of evolution, man a mere animal, that man is the measure of all things, that life is ultimately meaningless and death is the end of all, that there is no God above us and no hell below us - just imagine! You are a random blip in an accidental universe, all here by chance. No good news! No reason to speak much less preach; no mysteries and no truth; no commands, no eternity, no obedience or faith, no wisdom, no God, no glory, no amen.]