

EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

Message #59

Romans 16:20-27

IT IS THE GRACE OF GOD THAT ENABLES US TO BE PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD, AND IT IS THE GRACE OF GOD THAT ENABLES US TO GLORIFY GOD.

We may notice that twice in this context, Paul reiterates the theme of the “grace of God” (16:20, 24). As he concludes this letter, his mind is focused on God’s grace and God’s sovereignty.

FINAL POINT #1 – Paul’s final greetings to the Romans. **16:21-23**

Greeting #1 - The greeting from Timothy. **16:21a**

Timothy was Paul’s son in the faith. He was Paul’s own choice to be his successor. By naming Timothy first, Paul establishes the importance of his companionship and ministry.

Greeting #2 - The greeting from Lucius, Jason and Sosipater. **16:21b**

These three were “kinsmen.” That is they were Jewish. Even though Paul’s Gentile ministry is in full bloom, there were still those with him who were Jewish and who supported him.

Lucius was from Cyrene and had been a key leader in the church of Antioch and who first commissioned Paul for ministry (Acts 13:1-3). Many believe Lucius may have been a different spelling for Luke; however, I don’t think this because Luke was a Gentile, not one of the circumcision (Colossians 4:11, 14).

Jason was one of the first converts of Thessalonica who housed Paul and helped send him to Berea (Acts 17:5-10).

Sosipater was from Berea and a real student of the Word of God (Acts 20:4; 17:10-12). It is interesting that these three men loved God’s Word so much that they followed Paul. There is no greater reason to transfer locations than because one loves God’s Word.

Greeting #3 - The greeting from Tertius. **16:22**

Paul used an amanuensis or secretary to write Romans and this secretary’s name was Tertius.

Greeting #4 - The greeting from Gaius. **16:23a**

Paul was staying in the home of Gaius when he wrote Romans. Gaius was a man who lived in Corinth who also held church in his home (I Corinthians 1:14).

Greeting #5 - The greeting from Erastus. **16:23b**

Erastus was the city treasurer in Corinth.

Greeting #6 - The greeting from Quartus. **16:23c**

Quartus is identified as being “the brother” (possibly the brother of Erastus). He was obviously a believer and obviously one distinctly recognized by the Romans.

FINAL POINT #2 – Paul’s final benediction for the book of Romans. **16:24-27**

We may observe in this final benediction that three times in these three verses a preposition shows up - the preposition “according to (κατα).” This preposition shows up twice in verse 25 and once in verse 26. The basic meaning of this preposition is “down upon.” **What Paul wanted to stress by using this preposition in this final paragraph is that God, in His lofty, high, and holy majesty and glory, reached down to sinful man in pure grace in order to save him and establish him forever.**

What Paul is communicating in this final benediction is that the glorious God looked down at us and saw us as crippled sinful people, and by His grace He provided Jesus Christ so that we could be made to stand, and through His stripes we are healed and this should cause us to give Him honor and glory.

Final Truth #1 - God is able to establish a person but will only do so through the right Gospel.
16:25a

That word “establish” is one that means to strengthen something to the point where it can stand by itself.

God will only make one stand through the Gospel of Paul. In other words, until one is willing to respond to the truths penned by Paul in Romans, he will not be established by God into a right relationship with Him.

This is critical to see. It is not just any Bible study that will establish people in the faith. It is an accurate understanding of the Pauline Grace Gospel that will establish people in the faith. **Continually growing to the point where one can stand on his or her own demands being under the proper teaching of the Scriptures.**

Final Truth #2 - God establishes a person through preaching concerning the right person.
16:25b

Preaching is being attacked today and being replaced by entertainment, music, discussion groups, and informal fellowship gatherings. **But nothing will ever replace the power to establish people in the faith as accurate preaching of God’s grace Gospel that centers on Jesus Christ.**

Jesus Christ is the only means of being right with God. Jesus Christ is the only One who can make a sinner righteous in the sight of God. It is only by faith in Him that one is justified. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of faith (Hebrews 12:2). There is only one way to stand in the sight of God. It is not by works or religion. It is not by how good we have been or how bad we haven’t been; it is only through Jesus Christ.

Final Truth #3 - God establishes a person through the unveiling of the eternal mystery.
16:25c-27

A Biblical mystery is something God hides from full understanding until He wants to reveal it for full understanding. **Now specifically Paul has in his mind the mystery concerning the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ, through His cross -work, would bring sinful man, both Jew and Gentile, into a proper relationship with the Holy God.

What Paul is saying here is that this doctrinal mystery was hidden until he wrote Romans. Romans reveals the truth of the Gospel of God's Grace that says a sinner may only be made righteous in the sight of God by faith in Jesus Christ.

(Point #1) - This mystery is made known by the Scriptures. **16:26a**

Paul is saying that there are many prophecies in the Old Testament and the New Testament which clearly reveal that his Romans message is absolutely true and accurate.

Ladies and Gentlemen, do you see what the key is to sound thinking - a careful and accurate understanding of the Word of God. The wonderful truths and mysteries of God and His work are manifested as we understand the prophetic Scriptures.

(Point #2) - This mystery is made known by God's commandment. **16:26b**

The word "command" speaks of a Divine charge or commandment. Paul is saying that in order for God's mysteries to be unlocked, God must command it. This is so foreign to modern-day thinking, but the truth is, in order for us to grasp anything about God, God must sanction it. Jesus Christ said, "No man can come to Me unless the Father who has sent Me draws him" (John 6:44).

(Point #3) - This mystery is made known to all types of nationalities. **16:26c**

God has opened the door for all nationalities of people, all races, all colors to respond to His Son. It makes no difference what side of the tracks we are from; whoever believes on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.

(Point #4) - This mystery is made known and will lead to a developed obedient faith. **16:26d**

God does not permit us to understand His Word for the fun of it. He does so that we might become more obedient by faith. An obedient faith comes through the Word of God through faith in Jesus Christ and He gets the glory for it all. That is the story of Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

This book of Romans is a deep book of doctrine that centers on Jesus Christ and rooted in the wisdom of God and to Him be the glory forever and ever.