

To God Be the Glory
Romans 16:25-27
July 25, 2023

This is a doxology, which is a hymn of praise to God.

Question: What makes this a fitting conclusion to the book of Romans?

God is able to strengthen you according to the gospel (25-26)

25 “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...”

“my gospel”

1. The good news that Christ entrusted to the apostle Paul, and that Paul faithfully proclaimed
2. The same gospel that the other apostles proclaimed

It is synonymous with “the preaching of Jesus Christ”

- The preaching about Jesus Christ

The gospel of Jesus Christ has been the theme of this epistle

- **1:1-6**
- **1:15-17**

Paul has taught the gospel in this epistle in order that believers may be “strengthened”

Believers need to be strengthened...

1. In faith
 - **Luke 22:31–32** “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, **strengthen** your brothers.”
2. So as not to be moved by persecution
 - **1 Th. 3:2–3** “and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to **establish** and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this.”
3. In every good work
 - **2 Th. 2:16–17** “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and **establish** them in every good work and word.”

4. To resist the devil
 - **2 Th. 3:3** “But the Lord is faithful. He will **establish** you and guard you against the evil one.”
5. In the truth
 - **2 Pet. 1:12** “Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are **established** in the truth that you have.”

Now the apostle praises God, “who is able to strengthen you” in accordance with the gospel of Christ as you believe and meditate upon the gospel.

The apostle tells us more about the gospel. **Rom. 16:25b–26** “according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—”

The gospel is a “mystery that was kept secret for long ages”

1. A “mystery” is a part of God’s truth that He did not reveal, or only partially revealed, in the OT, but has now fully revealed through Christ and His apostles
2. As a “mystery,” the gospel is something that man could never figure out but can only know by divine revelation

“through the prophetic writings” the gospel has begun to be made known to all nations

1. These writings are the Scriptures
2. The apostles appealed to the OT Scriptures in their preaching of the gospel, as Paul has done throughout this epistle
3. The apostles understood their writings were Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16)

It is “the command of the eternal God” that the gospel be made known to all nations

- This is God’s eternal will

The purpose is “to bring about the obedience of faith”

1. **1:5** “through [Jesus Christ] we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,”
2. An obedience that originates from faith in Christ
3. Obedience to the Lordship of Christ
4. **Matt. 28:19–20** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them **to observe all that I have commanded you.**”

The gospel of God is such a glorious message from God, proclaiming the unfolding of His marvelous plan of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ! It is a message that reveals the glories of God!

Paul is now leading us in praising God in light of the gospel truths revealed in this epistle.

To God be the glory (27)

verse 27

“the only wise God”

1. *Question:* Where else in Romans is God's wisdom mentioned? How does God's wisdom relate to what has been taught in this epistle?

2. **11:30-36**

3. God’s wisdom is seen in His wise plan for salvation history, which has now been revealed through Christ and His apostles

4. That God is the only wise God means He is the only God, and to Him alone can be ascribed the wisdom exhibited in the unfolding of the mystery of His will.¹

“glory”

1. Here the word means “honor” and “praise”

2. When we give glory to God we honor Him as being the glorious God who He is

“forevermore”

- The gospel shows God to be worthy of eternal praise

“through Jesus Christ”

- Our Savior and Mediator

“Amen”

1. A Hebrew word

2. Means, “truly”

3. Occurs at the end of the first four books of Psalms

¹ John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*, 2:243.

Conclusion

What a fitting conclusion to this epistle!

Romans should stir us to honor and praise our great God!

12:1 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”

Do you praise God every day for the truths of the gospel?

God has given us music for praising Him