

UNASHAMED

A study of the book of Romans

I am not ashamed of the **GOSPEL**, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. Romans 1:16

December 26, 2021

Romans 16:25-27

SCRIPTURE

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from^[a] faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

COMMENTARY

When it comes time for Paul to conclude this greatest of all epistles, he summarizes much of what he said in the first five verses of the letter. The focus is on the gospel of Christ, given through the revelation of an Old Testament mystery, as the power of God unto salvation so that all—Jews and Gentiles (the nations)—might be saved. Here is the essence of what he is saying: Now to Him (v. 25) ... to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen (v. 27). God's wisdom is the focus. What has God done that is so wise that makes Him deserving of glory? Between his opening and closing words, Paul specifies why God deserves glory: because He is able to establish you (save you). Paul then lays out the wisdom of God: in the gospel Paul preaches, a

long-hidden mystery has been revealed so that all the people of the earth might reclaim the obedience to God lost in the garden by Adam and Eve:

- The means: My gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ.
- The mystery: according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God.
- The mandate: That all nations might believe and obey him.

For that, Paul says, God deserves glory—and He does. That God, out of His own loving initiative, designed a plan by which disobedient men and women might once again obey Him and regain their heritage as children of God, is worthy of glory.

MAIN POINT

The greatness and glory of the good news of the gospel should cause us to praise God.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What has moved you to praise God lately?

Do you think most people's praise of God is based on circumstances or eternal truths about who He is? Why?

If you could say just one thing about God to everyone you know right now, what would it be?

Today we come to Paul's concluding words in his letter to the Romans. When we began our study of this book, we learned that Paul's priority was to share the gospel message. In the end, we see that writing such a letter and expressing such glorious truths caused Paul to praise God.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ROMANS 16:25-27.

How would you summarize the gospel story?

**Who are some of the prophets who talked about the coming Messiah?
When you first began to realize your need for a relationship with Jesus, how did the Bible show you what you needed to do?**

The gospel Paul wrote about is the story of Jesus's incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection. It is the story of how people can trust in Christ for forgiveness of sin and a right relationship with God. This is why the Bible is vitally important—it tells all people how they can have a relationship with God. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible points to God's love for humanity, humanity's rebellion against God, and Jesus as the Savior whose death bought eternal life with the Father.

What specific aspects of God's character and work did Paul affirm in these final verses of Romans?

Which of these stands out to you the most? Why?

Thinking back over our study in the book of Romans, what other ways might Paul have ended his letter? Why do you think Paul ended his letter this way?

In the book of Romans, Paul taught that salvation comes as a free gift from God by faith in Jesus Christ, and that this salvation is necessary because we have all sinned against God. Sin permeates all that we do, but we can be saved by faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ! Here at the end of the letter, we find Paul moved by these truths to rejoicing again. The generationally long mystery of salvation has been revealed through Jesus Christ, and it is God alone who strengthens us in that gospel and receives glory forever.

How did Paul describe God's might in verse 25?

Paul focused first on God's might. God alone has the power to bring about whatever pleases Him. He assuredly will strengthen those who have committed their lives to the gospel. The good news Paul and the other apostles preached was the proclamation of Jesus Christ. Without Jesus, there is no gospel. This gospel had been a secret kept silent for long ages, but in God's time it was made known.

Why do you think Paul focused on God's eternity in verse 26?

He who is the eternal God acted in time and space with the coming of the Lord Jesus. From eternity, the plan was known. In the prophetic Scriptures, Jesus's coming had been predicted. At last God revealed Himself fully in Jesus Christ (Galatians 4:4). Christ was then made known through Paul and the other apostles. Since Christ's resurrection, the command had been to take the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). What was the result? Many experienced salvation by faith (Romans 1–11). Further, true gospel salvation always results in obedience (Romans 12–16).

How did Paul praise God for His wisdom in verse 27?

Paul drew attention next to God's wisdom. Our God alone is wise; He has all wisdom. Who else but our God could have conceived such a wise and wonderful design for saving sinners? Through Jesus Christ, the Father's wise plan was implemented. Because of Jesus's work in history and now in the lives of believers, God's wisdom and glory are fully seen. For all these reasons, glory belongs to God forever. Believers give Him glory by praising Him and calling attention to how important He is.

How have you praised God recently for His might? His eternity? His wisdom?

What are some specific ways you can direct the attention of other Christians to God and His glory?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What words can you use to describe God's work in the world and in your life? Explain.

Think about some friends who need to be disciplined in their faith. If you were to write them a letter, what would you most want them to know?

How has God spoken to you through this study of Romans?

PRAYER

Read Romans 16:25-27 together as a group as a doxology to close your group time.