

"The Conclusion"

Romans 16:25-27

Introduction: After a little more than two- and one-half years we have finally made our way to the conclusion of the book of Romans. It has been a marvelous journey as we studied the 5 major doctrines which Paul has taught us in this letter. Tonight, in our study we have arrived at the last 3 verses of this letter and these verses contain far more than we could ever cover in one study, but we shall limit our look to this one lesson.

➤ **The Subject and Purpose**

Notice Romans 16:25-27

The subject of these verses is the Word of God. The Word of God is referred to in 4 ways:

1. **My gospel**
2. **The preaching of Jesus Christ**
3. **The revelation of the mystery**
4. **The scriptures of the prophets**

We will look at these in some detail, but first I want to consider the first part of verse 25.

Notice Romans 16:25 again.

Here in this conclusion Paul points to God as the One who is of the power to "stablish" the Roman believers. The world believes that when a person is "established" that all progress ceases. This is the bullseye that the world shoots for. To get to the place where they are established and then just sit back and ride the retirement wave into the beach. But that is not what is meant here when Paul uses the word "stablish".

Have you even had a table or a chair outside for a picnic and tried to sit in the chair on uneven ground? Or have you ever tried to sit at the table when the table was on uneven ground? The table rocks back and forth and it is frustrating. I have been in restaurants where the tables rock because all the legs do not touch the ground. I always fold as many napkins as possible together and slide them under a leg to make it solid. The idea of "stablish" in our verse is the very same idea as moving the table or the chair around until all the legs touch the ground and it becomes solid.

This is exactly what God desires for us. How is this done? It is done by learning the Word of God. Remember that the subject in these verses is the Word of God.

Notice Romans 16:25 again.

I want you to notice that God **is of the power** to establish us. This statement lets us know there is something which needs to be done on our end. He is of power, but we too have a responsibility. Our responsibility is to saturate our lives with the Word of God.

Ephesians 4:11-15

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

God has ordained the church as a training place for the saints/soldiers. For those who neglect reading God's Word or those who neglect the church they become very shaky and unstable. These people are often the people who fall for false teaching.

James 1:8

⁸ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

God uses His gifted men to establish the saints, and this is very clear in what Paul wrote in Romans 1.

Romans 1:11

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Pastors are to feed the sheep pure doctrine, which alone can equip and firmly ground them in the truth that alone sets men free and keeps them from being blown about by every wind of doctrine. Saints who are not in the Word of God are open to deception. All saints stand in continual need of the Word of God to maintain spiritual stability.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

Notice the words of Stedman on being "stablished" of God:

"The idea is basically what all human beings look for -- an inner security from which you can handle all the problems of life. You become dependable, and have a true sense of worth, so that nothing gets to you, or shakes you up, or throws you off balance. This is the goal of all Christian teaching in the New Testament (and especially the goal of the letter to the Romans) that we believers might be brought to that place of security where we are not shaken by things, so that we do not lose our tempers easily, or get frustrated, angry, resentful or hostile; where we do not scream at our children, or yell at our mates, or get upset at the neighbors."

It is so important in this verse to see that it is God who is of the power to establish us. It is not our responsibility to bring about the end result, but it is our responsibility to fill our hearts and minds with God's Word so that He can establish each of us. We must provide what is needed for our God to make us rock solid in this world of temptation.

- **The revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.**

Notice Romans 16:25 again.

A mystery is something that was completely hidden before, in the Old Testament, but now has been made known. There are 5 passages in the New Testament that tell us what a New Testament mystery is.

Ephesians 3:4-5

⁴ *Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

⁵ *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*

Ephesians 3:9

⁹ *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

Colossians 1:26

²⁶ Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Matthew 13:35

³⁵ That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Romans 16:25

²⁵ Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began.

When the Bible speaks of a mystery it is not speaking of something that is mysterious, but it is speaking of that which was hidden in the Old Testament.

"A New Testament mystery is that which was hidden, kept secret, and not made known to men in previous generations [prior to Paul's generation] but was made manifest and revealed in the New Testament era to and by the New Testament apostles and prophets."

Before we get to the mystery which Paul speaks of here let me show you another mystery to illustrate the definition.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Here Paul reveals a mystery that none in the Old Testament knew and that was that some would not die, but they would be changed in a moment and caught up to be with the Lord.

So, the question is what is the mystery that Paul is referring to in Romans 16 that was not known in the Old Testament? Let me first of all tell you what it is NOT.

1. The mystery spoken of here is not the death and suffering of Jesus Christ. These were both foretold in the Old Testament.
2. The mystery spoken of here is not the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the resurrection also was foretold in the Old Testament.

Now let me tell you what the mystery is that has been hidden with God even before creation. The Jews and the Gentiles would be one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:4-6

⁴ *Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

⁵ *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;*

⁶ *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

Notice the words of Zeller on the mystery:

"The mystery which Paul spoke of in Romans 16 was that Jews and Gentiles were now being dealt with by God on the basis of total equality and that upon believing on Christ they would be united together into one body for the purpose of showing forth the excellencies of the One who called them out of darkness into His marvellous light! Out of two, God made ONE NEW MAN (Eph. 2:11-18) and ONE NEW FLOCK (John 10:16). And it is our privilege, in the day in which we live, to make known this mystery, to reveal the secret, to uncover the revelation that had once been hidden! This is one case where God wants us to be good secret tellers (in contrast to Prov. 11:13 where revealing secrets is condemned)."

➤ **My gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ.**

Notice Romans 16:25 again.

Now there is something within the phrase "my gospel" that we need to understand. There are some today and they are not far from where we are located, and they are known as ultradispensationists. There are several churches around this area that preach ultra-dispensationalism. These people teach that Paul alone received the revelation of the mystery and the mystery was not revealed until Paul made it known. They say it was "his gospel" for that reason. Let us notice the words of Zeller on this:

It should be noted that mystery truth had been revealed, at least in germ form, by the chief Revelator of all, our Lord Jesus Christ. This is seen especially in the mysteries of Matthew 13 and in the Upper Room Discourse of John 14-17. Here are some examples:

1. *The mystery of the church was anticipated in Matthew 13:45-46.*
2. *The mystery of "Christ in you" (Col. 1:27) was anticipated in John 14:20 and 17:23.*

3. *The mystery of the oneness of Christ and His church (Eph. 5:31-32) was anticipated in John 17:21-23.*
4. *The mystery of the rapture (1 Cor. 15:51-52) was anticipated in John 14:1-3.*
5. *The mystery of the present status of the nation Israel (Romans 11:25) was anticipated in Matthew 13:44.*
6. *The mystery of iniquity working throughout the course of this present age (2 Thess. 2:9) was anticipated in the parables of the mustard seed and leaven.*
7. *The mystery of Jews and Gentiles being united together in one body (Eph. 3:5-6) was anticipated in John 10:16.*

I show you this to help you to understand that Paul was not the first to reveal mystery Truth.

Notice Romans 16:26

Here we see that in Paul's day the Mystery was made known "**by the scriptures of the prophets**". This should read "**by prophetic Scriptures**". What Paul is saying here is that the mystery was not just given to him, but it was given to the New Testament prophets. This cannot be speaking of the Old Testament prophets because we just looked at verses that tell us the mystery was NOT known in the Old Testament.

Ephesians 3:5-6

⁵ *Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;***

⁶ *That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*

- **According to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:**

Notice Romans 16:26 again.

The commandment here is directly related to the Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Those who know the message are commanded to proclaim it to the lost. The same word is used by Paul of his apostleship.

1 Timothy 1:1

*Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the **commandment** of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;*

The gospel is the message from God that has power to change lives, families, and communities. The gospel is to lead people into a life of obedience.

Conclusion:

Notice Romans 16:27

As we live out the Truths taught in Romans might this verse be true. Might God be glorified as Jesus' life is lived through us in this world of increasing darkness.