

SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

In The Grip of God's Grace

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Romans 16:21-27 - "Paul's Hymn of Praise"

Romans 16:21-27, *"Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord. Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. 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, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen."*

We have come to the end of our study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

I have mixed emotions: sad, but glad!

The Book of Romans has been called Paul's "*Magnum Opus*". It's the most complete and mature expression of the apostles main doctrines; seen by many as the most important book in the Bible.

Martin Luther – The chief book of the New Testament ... It deserves to be known by heart, word for word, by every Christian.

Frédéric Louis Godet – In studying it we find ourselves, at every word, face to face with the unfathomable.

As we close our study in Romans we see two things:

1. Greetings from Paul's Friends (vs. 21-24)
2. Glory to Paul's God (vs. 25-27) – a doxology – a passage of Praise!

I. Greetings from Paul's Friends

Romans 16:21-24, *"Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord. Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

1. Timothy (vs. 21) - from Lystra – Acts 16

- his family (father – a Greek; his mother – Eunice, his grandmother – Lois)
- his conversion – Paul's son in the faith
- traveled with Paul
- his calling and temperament
- so loved by Paul

Philippians 2:19-23, "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state."

2. Tertius (vs. 22) – Paul's Amanuensis

[Amanuensis is a Latin word adopted in various languages, including English, for certain persons performing a function by hand, either writing down the words of another or performing manual labour. The term is derived from a Latin expression which may be literally translated as "manual labourer".]

Picture the scene:

- a native Italian – his name (Quartus – vs. 23) means a slave
- thought to be his brother
- used by God

3. Gaius (vs. 23) – Gift of hospitality

4 Grace (vs. 24) – same as verse 20

Lesson: Paul's contagious Heart

A survey taken recently in a suburban area of Houston to find out what had motivated people to choose the particular church where they were members. Some surprising answers were given: 12 percent chose their church because of prior denominational affiliation, 8 percent on the basis of the architectural beauty of the structure, 3 percent because of the person in the pulpit, 18 percent because of convenience of location, 21 percent because of people in the congregation whom they respected. But a whopping 37 percent were influenced by the fact that friends and neighbors took an interest in them and invited them.

Let's tale Paul's heart to heart!

II. Glory to Paul's God (vs. 25-27)

Romans 16:25-27, "*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, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*"

Paul closes his letter with a doxology.

It's a hymn of praise.

It's the largest passage of praise.

It sums up the central themes found in the Book of Romans.

It contains profound truths about God and the gospel.

1. Paul gives praise to the powerful God (vs. 25)

a. Romans 1:16, the Gospel "*...is the power of God unto salvation...*"

It's the power of God "*...to stablish you...*"

It's God's power that saves and strengthens us

It helps us stand strong and stable in our faith, against error, in holiness, in time of temptation, or persecution.

Have you tapped into God's power to save and strengthen you?

How?

1. "*...according to my gospel...*"
2. "*...the preaching of Jesus Christ...*"
3. "*...according to the revelation of the mystery* (The gospel was a mystery In the Old Testament)..."

2. Paul praises the Eternal God (vs. 26)

A. the gospel is revealed by God

Paul says it was hidden, but now revealed

How God has made it known:

1. *.. scriptures of the prophets...*"

Through the prophetic writings – its through the New Testament that we understand the Old Testament

James Boice – Peter described the situation, saying, “The prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow” (1 Peter 1:10-11).

The reason we understand the gospel now is that the Holy Spirit has given the apostles understanding of who he is and what he has accomplished, in agreement with the prior revelation. Indeed, this is how Paul handled the gospel. But then, at each major step in the argument, he supported his explanation with direct citations from the Old Testament. These texts were not necessarily clear earlier. But they are now, since Jesus has fulfilled them, and the Holy Spirit had given the apostles understanding of what they mean.

2. by “...*the commandment of the everlasting God,...*”

Illustration – The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

3. for “...*all nations...*”
4. to bring a response of the “...*obedience of faith...*”

III. Paul gives glory to the only wise God (vs. 27)

Romans 16:27, “ *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.* ”

We have seen the wisdom of God unfold in Romans

1. The wisdom of God in justification (Romans 1-4)
2. The wisdom of God in sanctification (Romans 5-8)
3. The wisdom of God in human history (Romans 9-11)

Romans 11:33-36, “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.* ”

God is glorified through Jesus Christ

- God’s wisdom is seen in Jesus Christ

- In Christ are “...are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...” Colossians 2:3
- In the cross of Christ is seen the wisdom and power of God.

In the cross of Christ God has:

1. rescued us – salvation
2. revealed His love – revelation
3. overcome evil – conquest

What begins with Grace ends with Glory!