"TO GOD BE THE GLORY"

Romans 16:21-27

2-21-2021

INTRODUCTION: Verses 21-24

***God is worthy to receive glory! (v. 25a, 27)**

I. The <u>REASONS</u> for Him to be Glorified (v. 25-26)
("To Him that is of power to <u>establish you</u>")
(the strength He gives)

A. Glorify God for the strength He gives
Through the <u>saving Gospel</u> (v. 25a)

B. Glorify God for the strength He gives
Through <u>spiritual understanding</u> (v. 25b-26)

1. <u>How</u> does God give spiritual understanding?
--"By the Scriptures"

2. <u>To whom</u> does God give spiritual understanding?
--"All nations"

3. <u>Why</u> does God give spiritual understanding?
--"For obedience"

II. The <u>MEANS</u> for Him to be Glorified (v. 27a)
(". . . Through <u>Jesus Christ</u>)

III. The <u>Duration</u> for Him to be Glorified (v. 27b)
(". . . <u>For ever</u>, Amen")

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Greetings to Rome from Corinth:

V. 21

"Workfellow" = fellow-worker; one who works together with someone; it describes someone who is a partner in ministry; someone with a team spirit.

"Kinsmen" = relatives; evidently relatives in Christ. In Christ we are family; we are brothers and sisters wearing the same "last name" - "Christians"

V. 22

"I Tertius, who wrote this epistle" -

Tertius was Paul's amaneunsis, his secretary, his scribe, his penman. Paul evidently had eye trouble and relied upon Godly men to pen his letters.

Paul under the superintending ministry of the Holy Spirit dictated this letter to Tertius (II Pet. 1:15-21).

God used men to write His Word.

[What a privilege it was for Tertius to have part in the production of Holy Scripture, each stroke of the pen being divinely inspired!]

While men "wrote" the Bible, God "authored" the Bible. The source of Scripture was God, not men!

Man's part was absolutely controlled by the Holy Spirit so that what was written was absolutely authoritative and completely free from error or omission (II Tim. 3:16).

Peter equates Paul's writings with the other Scriptures and recognizes their authority (II Pet. 3:15-16).

V. 23

"Gaius mine host" -

"Host" = someone who shows hospitality. Gaius opened his home for Paul and for all of God's saints.

The Apostle John commends Gaius for his faithful service for Christ and his love for God's people (III Jn. 1-6)

III Jn. 5-6a - "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers: Which have born witness of thy charity before the church."
"Erastus the chamberlain of the city" - the city treasurer, steward, manager.

God throughout history has saved many who had influence in the towns and cities in which they lived (EX: Ethiopian eunich - Acts 8:27ff).

He has saved bankers, presidents of corporations, governors, mayors, etc. Regardless of whom they are - "The ground is level at the foot of the cross."

Verse 24 was probably written by Paul's own hand, since this was his "official seal" in every letter (SEE: II Thes. 3:17-18) (Wiersbe, p. 566).

V. 25

"Now to Him" - a phrase of praise.

NOTE: This benediction of praise is a thought not completed until v. 27.

"Now to Him (v. 25) . . . To God . . . be glory (v. 27)."

Jude 24-25 has a similar benediction - "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Paul concludes this Epistle with a "look upwards" (Godet).

It is fitting that a message such as in Romans which came from God, should consequently inspire men to give glory to God.

Man was created to give glory to God!

Sinners are redeemed to give glory to God!

***God is worthy to receive glory! (v. 25a, 27)**

I. The REASONS for Him to be Glorified (v. 25-26)
("To Him that is of power to establish you")
(the strength He gives)

V. 25

"Stablish" = to make stable, firm, solid

God does not intend for His children to be weak; to vacillate; to be blown around by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14) or circumstance of life, but He wants them to be fixed, stable, mature.

"Power" = ability; the power to establish is found in no place other than God.

God intends for you to be "strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16)

Every Christian needs the strength that only God provides - even pastors (Acts 20:32 - "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.")

A. Glorify God for the strength He gives
Through the saving Gospel (v. 25a)

"According to my Gospel" - does not mean that the Gospel was exclusive to Paul, or that he was the only one who shared it. The phrase "my Gospel" simply refers to the Gospel which Paul preached, a Gospel which also the other Apostles preached (I Cor. 3:21-4:1).

"My Gospel" - Rom. 2:16; II Tim. 2:8
"Our Gospel" - II Cor. 4:3; I Th. 1:5

"Gospel" = good news

Many times, as believers go through life, they often forget all that Jesus did for them through the simple Gospel. That simple message is our source of strength.

The core or our fortitude is our faith in the finished, substitutionary work of Christ. Don't lose sight of it!

The simple key to victory over the world's philosophies, temptations, etc., is our faith (I Jn. 5:4)

The Gospel Paul preached was:

1) A righteous Gospel (totally consistent with the holiness of God - Rom. 1-3)

2) A free Gospel (no charge) - Rom. 4-5 (cp. Rom. 6:23 - "gift")

3) A complete Gospel (enough to transform the "whole man" - Rom. 6-8)

4) A universal Gospel (enough for everyone who believes - Rom. 9-11)

"The preaching of Jesus Christ" = the proclamation about Jesus Christ (objective genitive)

Paul's only message was "Christ"!

Jesus Christ was the "constant theme and predominant subject of his message" (Thomas, p. 438).

When Christ is uplifted, God's people are strengthened! When He is exalted, we are edified.

B. Glorify God for the strength He gives
Through spiritual understanding (v. 25b-26)

v. 25

"Revelation" = unveiling; revealing

"Mystery" = that which was previously unknown, but now is revealed

"Kept secret" - passive; it was God who kept such a message hidden.

Paul's description of the "mystery" - SEE: Eph. 3:1-10

* v. 6

The mystery of which Paul speaks "was not that the Gospel was to be extended to the Gentiles, for this was no mystery at all, since it is clearly found in a number of passages in the O.T. The 'mystery' was something that arose out of this extension to the Gentiles, namely, the union of Jew and Gentile on the same level, as one Body in Christ" (Thomas, p. 439)

V. 26

"Now is made manifest" - made clear, made visible

1. How does God give spiritual understanding?
   --"By the Scriptures"

   "By the Scriptures of the prophets" = the New Testament apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5; 4:11-12) (Paul is not referring to the O.T. prophets, since they never heard of the mystery of the "Church").

   "According to the Commandment" - God gave the word; the "OK" and His mystery was revealed.

   Unless God reveals something, it will never be known.

2. To whom does God give spiritual understanding?
   --"All nations"

   "Made known" - passive. God wants to use His children to make His truth known to the world.

   The world will never know, unless we make it known!

3. Why does God give spiritual understanding?
   --"For obedience"

   "Obedience of faith" =

   The "root" of obedience is faith.
   The "fruit" of faith is obedience (James; I John)

   Obedience is the result of saving faith; a faith which does not produce obedience is no faith at all (James 2:14-20).

II. The MEANS for Him to be Glorified (v. 27a)
(". . . Through Jesus Christ)

"To God only wise" = God displayed wisdom in His marvelous plan of salvation, being both just and the Justifier of him who believes (Rom. 3:26; 11:33-36).

God is the only source for true wisdom! All wisdom comes from Him. You must go to Him to get it (Prov. 3:5-7; James 1:5).

God the Father is glorified through (by means of) Jesus Christ the Son -
Example:

1) By His life on earth (Jn. 17:4-5 - "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.")

2) By His exaltation in Heaven - Phil. 2:9-11)

Christ's finished work of redemption and all who are saved because of Jesus will glorify God the Father.

III. The Duration for Him to be Glorified (v. 27b)
(". . . For ever, Amen")

"Forever" = lit. unto the ages of the ages. God will be glorified eternally because His work of salvation will last eternally.

God is worthy of glory!

SEE:Rev. 4:8-11
Rev. 5:11-14

CONCLUSION:

This study of the book of Romans should encourage us in regard to:

God's salvation (ch. 1-5)
God's sanctification (ch. 6-8)
God's sovereignty (ch. 9-11)
And
God's complete right for us to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices (ch. 12-16)

. . . All so that God would be glorified!

We are to give glory to God (Jer. 9:23-24 - "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."

We are to do all to the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do al to the glory of God.")

King Herod "gave not God the glory" (Acts 12:23) and it cost him his life!

Do you bring glory to God?!

"Day by day, hour by hour, and even moment by moment, may we never forget the supreme purpose of everything in life" (Thomas, p. 442).

Namely, to glorify God!