



Sermon Notes | Guarding the Gospel | Romans 16:17-23

INTRODUCTION

Before we begin on the 'last' few verses of this letter to the Romans, let us first consider a few verses which 'opened' the Romans' letter. Romans 1:1-6 introduced the opening theme statements.

Romans 1:1-6

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Yes, that is what we have learned about in Romans, the power of God, the Holy Scriptures, the obedience to the Father, and Jesus Christ. This is precisely what has been seen 'unveiled' and woven through, chapter after chapter, the themes of the Gospel of God.

And now we arrive at these 'final verses'.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, 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—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

These final verses, these 'glory words' create a doxology. They are a 'response of praise and glory', an outburst, a fitted response, a response that cannot be contained. Like we studied at the end of chapter 11 of Romans, where we found there another fitted outburst, another concluding doxology, which again followed rich and immense theology.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

*“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”*

“Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

And now we have all sixteen glorious chapters presented, ending in yet another doxology, a fitting response to this book; the only fitting response we can have now after all we have studied in Romans.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, 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—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Our Lord: May we see these words and understand, and be granted minds to comprehend their depth, hearts not only to receive, but that we might process and practice them as we walk in Gospel glory, glorifying You in doxology among the church, and among all people. Amen.

Ultimately the Gospel begins and ends with God. It is altogether HIM. We cannot add on to these final words. We cannot enhance or improve these verses. These verses give the 'perfect closure' to the letter. These verses 'glorify' the Gospel of God. May we remember and recall this Gospel glory, the 'glorious Gospel' of God, for the steps beyond.

I. THE POWER OF GOD:

Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages...

Paul begins verse 25 with a burst of praise: "Now to Him" ... To whom? Paul finishes the thought in verse 27... "to the only wise God".

But here, in verse 25, Paul reminds us that GOD is the One who is able to 'strengthen' the Christian, to 'strengthen' you the Christian, to establish you, or to solidify you. This is the 'power of God' found in the Gospel of God. It is 'divine enablement'. We cannot do it ourselves. Though we search for it, it is found only in the Gospel of God. God's 'power' establishes and enables the weak, impotent sinner. It is through this, His God 'power' that we have seen throughout Romans, His 'divine enablement'. It was the 'power' that enabled the 'resurrection' from the dead.

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...

It is the same 'power' that caused our 'salvation'.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

This same eternal 'power' has been declared since Creation, and so there is no excuse to suppress.

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

We have learned in Romans that we believe by faith; we believe in God's 'power' by faith, just as Abraham grew strong in his faith to become 'fully convinced' in God.

Romans 4:20

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

The 'power of God' has been seen in His Sovereignty, as has been made known in Romans in chapters 9, 10, and 11.

Romans 9:17, 22

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."... What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction.

Why does evil surround us? Romans shows us that we wait on the Lord so that the 'power of God' can be displayed around us. He sustains us in ungodliness. The 'power' of God calls, cuts off, and grafts back in. It is purposeful. It is the majestic plan of God.

Romans 11:23

And even they [the Jews], if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

It is His 'power' that allows us to stand, and which upholds us. The Lord, by His 'power', establishes the Christian, 'strengthens' and enables him/her in the Gospel of God.

Romans 14:4

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

Chapter 5 of Romans establishes that 'God's power' not only enables 'salvation' but also enables the Christian to 'endure' suffering. Chapter 6 of Romans points out that 'God's power' enables us to 'choose righteousness'. Chapter 7 demonstrates that 'God's power' enables us to 'resist temptation' even in struggle. In Chapter 8, the 'power of God' guarantees that the Christian will 'never be separated from the love of God' because of the omnipotence of God. This 'power' 'strengthens', but it is only the first piece of 'Gospel glory'.

II. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD:

Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages...

Paul says in verse 25 that you are 'strengthened'. How? By the Gospel, his gospel, but it is not Paul's gospel alone, for it is 'our gospel' also. By being in Christ, by our position in Christ, we too now have claim on the Gospel of God. Righteousness of God is the revelation of God!

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...

Galatians 1:11-12

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

The Gospel is not any man's Gospel. Paul received the Gospel only by revelation by Christ. Hence, it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the preaching of Jesus Christ. The content of the Gospel speaks to what is preached, and the heart of what is preached is 'Jesus Christ'. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is preached, and is the righteousness of God made known to us. It is His righteousness, not our own. It is His righteousness, the righteousness imparted by Christ. Paul's proclamation here in these Chapter 16 verses is that the 'righteousness of God' is the revelation of God through Christ Jesus, and is 'the power' of salvation.

Revelation 1:16-17

In his right hand [Jesus] he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two edged sword [the Word], and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last."

Thus, 'the righteous' shall live by faith, set against 'the unrighteous' who suppress the truth.

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

1. The Righteousness of God is the revelation of the Gospel of God.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

2. The Righteousness of God is set against the unrighteousness of man.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

3. The Righteousness of God is judgment revealed and coming.

Romans 2:1-11

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

We know that the judgment of God will come on those who practise judgment on others.

4. The Righteousness of God is not achieved through law works, but through faith.

Romans 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

5. The Righteousness of God is accounted to us, to 'save', by faith.

Romans 4:3-6

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works.

6. The Righteousness of God is a gift imputed to us, to give life.

Romans 5:17-18

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

And now, we are 'slaves' to 'righteousness'. Why? In order to 'sanctify' us. The Christian is set free from sin, and in turn, has become the 'slave to righteousness'.

7. The Righteousness of God sanctifies, grows us in Christlikeness.

Romans 6:18-20

...and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

Members from impurity and lawlessness, come to Christ's 'righteousness' not just for salvation, but also for 'sanctification'. It is not our righteousness, but 'Christ Alone'. We wrestle through our days, striving to cope in our own strength, but we cannot do life in our own strength. Paul provides this Gospel message reminder to us: It is not our

righteousness, and not our strength. It is 'Christ Alone', and His righteousness, not only to save, but to live out each and every day.

III. HOLY SCRIPTURES:

Romans 16:25

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages...

Romans takes us back to Old Testament Scriptures. The mystery is revealed. Scripture is not a 'who done it' mystery novel with misleading plots. It is not 'pop literature'. No! Neither is the Gospel new. Biblical 'mystery' refers to the 'progressive revelation' of the 'grand plan of God'. Romans takes us back through the writings of the prophets to see the promise of the 'grand plan', to see how the mystery was revealed. Paul begins his Roman letter with this very focus:

Romans 1:1-2

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures...

And Romans continues, with Paul referencing the Old Testament book of Habakkuk, with the words 'it is written', and declaring that life comes by faith.

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul is puffed up, it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

Paul is also making reference to Old Testament messages when he writes this passage, that no one seeks for God, not even one.

Romans 3:10-18

...as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

All have turned aside; together they

have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one."

"Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

*“Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known.”
“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

These Holy Scriptures in Psalms also have declared the state of mankind.

Psalm 5:9-10

*For there is no truth in their mouth;
their inmost self is destruction;
their throat is an open grave;
they flatter with their tongue.
Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own counsels;
because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.*

Psalm 14:1-4

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is none who does good.
The LORD looks down from heaven on
the children of man,
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.
They have all turned aside; together
they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.
Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers
who eat up my people as they eat bread
and do not call upon the LORD.*

Psalm 36:1-4

*Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in his heart,
there is no fear of God
before his eyes.
For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;
he has ceased to act wisely and do good.
He plots trouble while on his bed;
he sets himself in a way that is not good;
he does not reject evil.*

Psalm 53:1-4

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;
there is none who does good.
God looks down from heaven
on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.
They have all fallen away;
together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.
Have those who work evil no knowledge,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?*

Psalm 140:1-5

*Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;
preserve me from violent men;
who plan evil things in their heart
and stir up wars continually.
They make their tongue sharp as a
serpent's,
and under their lips is the venom
of asps.
Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of
the wicked;
preserve me from violent men;
who have planned to trip up my feet;
The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,
and with cords they have spread a net,
beside the way they have set snares
for me*

The Holy Scriptures of the Old Testament also revealed/declared Abraham's faith, that Paul then writes about in Romans.

Romans 4:3

For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Genesis 15:4-6

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him (Abram): "This man shall not be your heir, your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, 'Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And Paul refers to David, another Old Testament example, who speaks of life without works, revealing yet another aspect of God's grand plan, in his discussion of blessed 'forgiveness'.

Romans 4:6-8

...just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

*“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds
are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered,
blessed is the man against whom the
Lord will not count his sin.”*

Psalms 32:1-2

*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the
LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

The Old Testament Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, and the Gospel of God all declare the 'good news' that 'forgiveness is before you'. The 'good news' is the Gospel of God, and the message is sure: there is 'forgiveness' for what you've done! Holy Scriptures reference this truth over and over. Just in chapters 9, 10 and 11 of Romans alone, the Old Testament Psalms, Prophets and/or Law are referenced twenty-six times declaring God Sovereign and reconciling the world. His choice: to elect Jacob and reject Esau, to call the Gentiles in the wake of Israel's rejection, and through the embrace of the Gentiles, making Israel jealous, and thereby reconciling the world, that being the ultimate 'grand plan', Jew and Gentile together, and fellow heirs. His 'grand plan', to create a 'remnant' from all nations, singing praise to ONE Messiah.

Ephesians 3:6

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The letter of Romans in the New Testament, building on the Old Testament Scriptures, was the 'key letter' to unveil, reveal, and 'further' this ancient mystery of God. Though once hidden, it was now revealed, thus uniting the world. The message was nothing new. Holy Scriptures had now, in the fullness of time, disclosed 'the Promised Seed' of Genesis, the long awaited 'Coming Messiah', Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the World! This was the Christ of the Holy Scriptures, given in full, given in all.

IV. THE NATIONS:

This 'doxology' declares that "the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages" (Romans 16:25b), has now been disclosed and made known to 'all nations'.

Romans 16:26

...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 'good news' to the nations is part of the mystery revealed in the New Testament. It was always part of the 'grand plan' of God. God never planned that just one nation should be saved. No. It was always the 'plan of God' that 'all nations' would be included, and that there would be a 'remnant' formed from all the nations. And Paul was 'set apart' to 'serve' Christ in sharing this Gospel message.

Romans 1:1-5

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...

Salvation, through Christ. Salvation among all the nations. One God for all the nations on Earth. And the promise was to be realized through faith. And so Abraham, the 'father of faith' became heir of the world, in his belief.

Romans 4:13

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

And so, faith brought man under a 'new head', under Christ. No longer was the believer under Adam's headship. Praise God for that, for now the 'whole world' is under the Sovereign 'grand plan of God'. This is not a Judeo-Christian thing, and not a western cultural thing, or a Canadian thing. No. This was God's plan from the beginning. And Paul confirms that the message was meant for both Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 11:13-15

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead.

All nations will ultimately glorify God. The nations are represented even now in our multi-ethnic congregation.

And so, Paul confirms the promise, as it is written in II Samuel.

Romans 15:8-9

*For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name."*

Romans 15:12

*And again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jess will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope."*

2 Samuel 22:47,50

*The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.
For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.*

Deuteronomy 32:43

*Rejoice with him, O heavens,
bow down to him, all gods,
for he avenges the blood of his children
and takes vengeance on his adversaries.
He repays those who hate him
and cleanses his people's land.*

Isaiah 11:10

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Yes, the nations have access to Christ and to the Gospel Glory!

V. THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH:

Romans 16:26

[The mystery]... 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...

By the command of God... The Eternal God, has made a Sovereign decree, to bring about 'the obedience of faith'. This is the unfolding of 'Gospel Glory', the Advent of Jesus Christ, the revealing of Jesus Christ, and this is 'all things' in God's perfect timing. His was the perfect timing for the command in time for Creation, and for the command to Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and for the command for Christ to come down at the proper time to fulfill 'the plan'. Thus was His perfect timing for fulfilling the rejection of

Christ. And now, today's plan, is the time for 'all nations', and for who God commands to 'repent'.

Acts 17:30

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent...

This is the call to everyone, everywhere! Repent! This is the message of the 'Gospel'. It is not enough to just admit that He is real. It is not a call to people to be inspired to do good things. It is not a calling to attend church. It is not a call to clean up and be in the church building. It is not just a calling for people to share 'the good news'. No. God is calling 'everyone' to be 'obedient' to the Master. It is the call of faith to the triune God who made you! It is the command from the Eternal and Sovereign God to repent and believe in Christ, and to follow Christ in all of His commands. It is the call to 'obedience in faith' in all things, with no compartmental obedience. The Gospel is not about living out our own moral virtues. It's all about Christ. It is all about His commands. It requires obedience only! Romans calls, summons, a 'chosen people', both Jew and Gentile, to return to their Creator, to live their lives rightly, and in Christ.

Are you in 'obedience' to your Master? There is no room for question that the Christian is following Christ.

Romans 1:1-5

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...

We note that Paul was called, that he was set apart, and that he had specific purpose. He had become a servant, and he served Christ, with the purpose of bringing out the obedience of faith. This too is our mission.

Romans 6:15

What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

Sin leads to death. Obedience leads to life. Obedience 'conforms' our new lives with new priorities. We are new creations in Christ, and obedience becomes the compulsion of the 'new heart' of the new creation. What does that look like?

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

New life enables us to submit to God's authority.

Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

God Alone is the ultimate authority! Therefore, forsake yourself, love one another, and live for the community of believers, never causing another to stumble.

Romans 14:13

Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.

For the sake of the Kingdom, prove acceptable. Do not destroy or tear down, but live to be mutually building one another up. This was Paul's ministry to God, obedience by word and deed!

Romans 15:17

In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

Romans 16:19

For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

It is not about being nice. It is about being 'obedient' to Christ, and about being known for our 'obedience of faith'.

VI. THE WISDOM OF GOD:

And so, Paul concludes his letter and his doxology.

Romans 16:27

...to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

God is the only 'wise' God! His 'wisdom' is unfathomable! He deserves 'glory' for all He has done! His 'grand plan' for salvation has been accomplished. Paul's letter to the Romans has provided and explained the intimate details

And Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, is under 'obligation' to bring this 'salvation' message to even the foolish. Why? It is a 'kindness' provided by God, for the purpose of 'repentance'. God's 'kindness' to the 'foolish' is meant, not to give permission to continue in the old way, but to bring one to 'repentance'.

Romans 1:13-15

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

God's 'kindness' was a sacrifice for the weak. For while we were still sinners, Christ died for mankind. The 'wisdom of God' gives 'mercy' to the disobedient.

Romans 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:21

But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Would we do that? No! Yet Holy God did. His forbearance, love, patience, and 'kindness' was extended to a people who 'rejected' Him, a people who were 'disobedient' to Him. He wanted 'repentance' from them. There was purpose in His actions, as Paul points out.

Romans 11:25

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

The 'wisdom of man' has no understanding of 'God's wisdom' but ultimately God's plan provides 'mercy' on all, on Israel, and on the Gentile Nations.

Romans 11:30-32

For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of 'God's wisdom'! It surely is beyond our understanding. This is the declaration of Paul in Romans.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Indeed, we must say, with Paul, 'To God be glory evermore!'

VII. THE GLORY OF GOD:

The 'glory of God', is 'glory' that we want to cast off, and is displaced in Romans. The 'glory of God' is not given honour by humanity. In our natural state, mankind rejects God and His 'glory', exchanging the 'glory of God' for lesser things, as Paul points out.

Romans 1:22-23

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

But, Paul goes on to say, God, in His 'wisdom' has provided the 'hope of glory'. Those who are 'justified by faith' are secure in their standing before God, and therefore hold the 'hope of the glory of God'. By Christ's death on their behalf, they are saved from the wrath of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

The 'glory of God' is our hope, is the hope of the cosmos! Paul states in appreciation of this fact:

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

There is a 'glory' to be revealed to us. 'Glory' is a motivation for us: for 'God's glory'. Paul states:

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

And indeed, to this end, through Christ, they did so.

Romans 15:27

For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

And so we come to the close of Romans, but in doing so, let us not miss the point of the letter. All of this is so, only through Christ Jesus! Amen.

VIII. NO GOSPEL OF GOD EXCEPT THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:

There is no 'gospel glory' without Jesus Christ; no 'glory'.... no 'gospel glory'. It only comes by way of and through Christ! Who is 'gospel glory'? Only Christ. Nothing else is 'glory' but Him. Without Jesus, there is no 'glory'. The 'Glory of God' displayed in

Romans is by and through Jesus Christ Alone! Paul expresses and points out this truth throughout the letter.

Jesus Christ is the 'glory of the Gospel'.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Romans 1:4

...and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...

Christ's followers were named after Him and called Christians. To belong to Christ was not to be in a group, but in a relationship with Him.

Romans 1:6

...including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

Paul states that he thanks God through Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Paul states that the secrets of man will come under God's judgment by Christ Jesus.

Romans 2:16

...on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

The righteousness of God comes to one by faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:22

...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction.

The gift of righteousness comes through the redemption that comes through Christ.

Romans 3:24

...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Our belief is in Jesus Christ, who died for our sin, and who was raised from death.

Romans 4:24

...It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.

We have peace through Christ.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice through Christ.

Romans 5:11

More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The grace of God has been granted to us a 'free gift' by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

We reign in Christ.

Romans 5:17

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Eternal life comes by Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:21

...so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are baptized into Christ's death.

Romans 6:3

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

Romans 6:4

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Just as we have died with Christ, so also shall we live with Christ.

Romans 6:8

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

We are alive in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:11

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are delivered from death through Christ.

Romans 7:24-25

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

There is no condemnation for sin in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We are set free in Christ.

Romans 8:2

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Christ is in you.

Romans 8:10

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

We are fellow heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

We are conforming to the image of the Son, Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God when we are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Christ is the end of Law.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Confess Christ and be saved!

Romans 10:9

...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Faith comes from hearing, and we hear through Christ.

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The Deliverer is Christ.

Romans 11:26

*And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,
"The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob..."*

We are 'one body' in Christ.

Romans 12:5

...so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

We are called to 'put on' Christ.

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Jesus Christ is Lord of the dead and the living.

Romans 14:9

For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Serve Christ.

Romans 14:18

Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

We are to welcome one another, as Christ has welcomed us.

Romans 15:7

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

In Christ we do our work for God.

Romans 15:17

In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

Christ accomplishes His work via the words and deeds of His servants.

Romans 15:18

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed.

In Christ comes blessing.

Romans 15:29

I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Strive together in Christ in love and prayer.

Romans 15:30

I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf.

Our beloved 'community' is in Christ.

Romans 16:1-16

...Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

In the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ...

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

To the only wise God be 'glory' through Jesus Christ.

Romans 16:27

...to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE 'GLORY' OF THE GOSPEL! There is no other.