

I. Introduction and review.

- A. Doxologies in Scripture. 11:33-36 Eph. 3:20-21 II Th. 2:16-17 Heb. 13:20-21
Jude 24-25 Rev. 5:8-9 19:1-2 Mt. 6:13 Ps. 72:18-19
- B. Paul's final doxology brings out many of the important themes of the book of Romans which were introduced in the opening section. 1:1-5

II. Praise God for His power which strengthens you. v. 25 1:17-8:39

- A. You could never stand on your own. 7:24 8:7-8
- B. Just as God brought you to faith, He preserves you in faith. 8:31-39 I Co. 1:8-9
Jude 24 II Th. 2:16-17
1. You were saved solely by His grace (and power). 3:24 9:15-16 8:29-30a Eph. 2:1f
 2. The work He began He will complete. 8:30b Philippians 1:6 Eph. 2:10
 3. He protects you from every assault. 8:31-39 16:17-20 Eph. 4:14 II Ti. 1:12
 4. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. I Co. 10:13
 5. Don't rely upon your own strength or understanding. Pr. 3:5-7
 6. Don't rely upon others to deliver you. Jer. 17:5-8
 7. God's Almighty power is all you need. Eph. 3:16-20
- C. God establishes you by means of the gospel of Jesus Christ. v. 25b 1:1 1:16-8:39
10:17 I Co. 1:23-24
1. God uses means to accomplish His purposes. I Th. 3:2
 2. God uses the Word to both save and establish you. 1:15 I Co. 1:21 2:4
 3. Those who reject the gospel are unstable (doomed). I Co. 1:23-24
 4. You continue to need the gospel after you are converted. 1:15,11
- D. How does the gospel preserve and strengthen you?
1. It reminds you that you have been declared righteous by faith. 3:21-26 5:1
 2. It reminds you of your union with Christ by which you have been set free from the power sin once had over you. 6:11 8:11,14
 3. It assures you of your ultimate glorification with Christ. 8:18,30

III. Praise God for His Wisdom now fully revealed to you. v. 25c-27 9:1-11:36

- A. What is the mystery? v. 25c 11:25f Col. 2:2 1:27 Eph. 1:9 3:4-6 5:32 6:19f
1. A mystery is a previously hidden spiritual truth which could not be known except by supernatural revelation.
 2. Justification by faith is not the mystery. 4:1-8 1:16 Gen. 15:6 Habakkuk 2:4
 3. The mystery is God's plan to save Gentiles and Jews together in Christ. 11:25 Eph. 3:4-12 Col. 1:27 John 10:16
 4. God's wisdom is seen in the person and work of Christ. v. 27a 11:33f I Co. 2:6-7 Eph. 3:10 Col. 2:3,8-9 I Co. 1:30
- B. The nations are being evangelized.
1. The gospel is meant for all people. 10:12 11:13 15:10-12,16,18,27 John 3:16
 2. Multitudes among the Gentiles are exercising obedient faith. 1:5 15:18 16:19
 3. Everything is going according to God's eternal perfect plan. 9-11

- C. How could this be a mystery if it has been made known by the prophetic Scriptures?
1. Is Paul referring to the New Testament prophets? Eph. 2:20 3:5 4:11
 2. Or is he saying that what was seen dimly through the Old Testament Scriptures has now been fully revealed. 1:2,17 3:21 I Pe. 1:10-11 Lu. 24:44-45 Titus 1:2-3
 3. The salvation of the Gentiles was anticipated. Isa. 53:11 42:6 66:19 Jer. 31:31,33 Ezek. 11:19 Gen. 12:3 22:18 Mal. 4:2
 4. But the manner and scope was not fully revealed. 10:12-13
- D. The gospel displays God's wisdom. 1:18-8:39
1. How can a holy God justly be reconciled to wicked rebellious sinners?
 - a. The gospel displays God's great love and mercy. 5:8-9
 - b. The gospel is completely consistent with God's justice. 3:23-26
 2. No mere human would have come up with such a scheme.
- E. The unfolding of God's plan displays His wisdom. 9-11
1. How can God be faithful to His promises to the Jews when so many of them reject the gospel?
 2. How can God bring the Gentiles, who were so far away, to Himself? Eph. 3:10

IV. Conclusion: To God alone be the glory forever, amen. v. 27b Eph. 3:21

- A. God is the Only God. v. 27a 3:29-30 I Tim. 1:17
1. The uniqueness of God is the central truth in Scripture. Ge. 1:1f Ex. 20:3 Dt. 6:4-5
 2. The Bible does not try to prove God's existence. 1:18f
 3. Mankind's great sin is ignoring God. 1:21
 4. Roman believers were later tested in their belief in the one God.
- B. The glory of God is the chief end (goal) of all things. 11:36
1. We exist for His glory.
 2. The glory in salvation is God's alone because salvation is God's work (alone).
 3. God's purpose in saving us is that He would be glorified in our lives.
 4. God is glorified in all things. 8:28 Eph. 1:11
- C. God's glory reaches its apex through the person and work of Christ.
We only know and glorify God through Christ. John 14:6 Acts 4:12

Discussion Questions

1. How does this doxology draw upon themes of the rest of the book of Romans?
2. Why is it important that God establish us?
3. By what means does God establish us?
4. What is the mystery which has now been revealed?
5. What is the affect of the mystery in the world today?
6. Which attributes of God does Paul highlight in this doxology?
7. What is the goal of God's plan?