

The Doxology of Praise # 56
Romans 16: 24-27

It has been a beautiful and enlightening journey through the book of Romans. I pray you have enjoyed our time together in this great book. Through the inspired words of Paul we have learned much about the doctrine of salvation and the responsibilities of our Christian walk.

Having shared his heart and many profound truths, Paul took the time to express his gratitude for many who had walked alongside him, aiding in the work of the ministry. One can only imagine how Paul must have felt after finishing such a profound and needful exposition for the church. As he concludes his thoughts, Paul breaks forth in a song of praise unto the Lord. It appears evident that his heart was so full of wonder and adoration for the Lord that he had no choice but to worship.

In closing, Paul offers a doxology, a hymn of praise unto the Lord. As I read these words I was reminded of *The Doxology* many churches sing:

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

As we conclude our study in Romans, I want to consider the [stanzas](#) of praise Paul sings as we think on: [The Doxology of Praise](#).

I. Paul speaks of Grace (24) – [The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.](#) This is a short stanza in this song of praise, but it reveals much. Consider:

A. The Salutation – Paul earnestly desired the believers in Rome to experience the grace of God as he had. He knew the vast benefits of grace and he longed for them to rest in the grace of Christ the Lord as well.

- Those who have experienced grace and are walking with the Lord understand the importance and great significance of grace. I am truly thankful for the grace that I experience and enjoy each day. It is my desire that you too will be filled with the abundant grace of our Lord.

B. The Source (24) – Paul spoke of [the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ](#). He is the source and the sole provider of grace. Apart from Christ there is no grace. Had He not come as the sacrificial atonement for our sin, grace would never have been extended. Grace is God's unmerited favor, freely given to those who were undeserving. As Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice for sin, grace was extended to all who believe in Christ by faith!

- Time will not permit a discussion of all that Christ is, His power, sovereignty, majesty, and grace, but it is comforting to know that He is the source of the grace we received. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the Creator and Sustainer of life. He is our great High Priest, the Shepherd and keeper of our souls, the Rock of our salvation, our Mediator, and the steadfast Anchor of our souls. Grace provided and kept by our Lord is comforting and secure.

C. The Significance (24) – One cannot ponder the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and not consider the salvation it affords. We know that salvation is by grace through faith, not of our works or merit. Had Christ not come to redeem us from sin and offer His abundant grace freely, we all would yet be in sin, without hope and separated from God. Grace provides the salvation we could never earn or deserve. Through grace the righteousness of Christ is imputed to our account. The sin that condemned us is forgiven and forgotten. God exchanges our sin and condemnation through the grace of His Son for eternal righteousness!

D. The Supply (24) – [The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen](#). Paul also rejoiced for the vast supply of grace available to all who look to Christ by faith. There was no danger of grace ever being in short supply. The grace of our Lord is sufficient and available for all. It is extended in great measure in salvation and we continue to rest in grace as we walk this Christian pathway. Grace is sufficient for every need we encounter.

II. Paul speaks of the Gospel (25-26) – Here Paul affirms his affection for and devotion to the Gospel. He refers to:

A. The Power (25a) – [Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel](#). We must not forget that Paul had experienced the power of the Gospel of Christ firsthand in a miraculous way. He was confronted with the Gospel by the Lord Himself as he journeyed on the Damascus Road. Paul had experienced the transforming power of the Gospel and was convinced of the same effect on all who receive it. He knew the Gospel has the power to establish those who encounter it. This has the idea of "*setting fast; turning resolutely in a particular direction; to confirm, fix, establish, and strengthen.*" Once salvation is received through the transformation of the Gospel, one is

pulled from the miry clay of sin and set firmly on the solid Rock of Christ the Lord. Their path and direction is changed from the former man of sin, now walking with the Lord according to His guidance, while being strengthened in the way!

- Paul is not claiming exclusive rights to the Gospel or implying that he alone preached the true Gospel; he is referring to the message of Christ crucified, buried, and risen that he faithfully preaches. Some erroneously assume that the true Gospel was not preached until Paul. He is only affirming the truth of the message he preaches.

B. The Preaching (25b) – [Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ.](#) Paul well understood the great need and importance of preaching the Gospel of Christ. It was the message a lost and dying world needed to hear. Receiving salvation by grace through faith is man's only hope and one must hear and comprehend the Gospel in order to be saved. Paul was committed to preaching the Gospel everywhere he went, and to all who would listen. For him there was no other message to share. He knew apart from Christ men were hopelessly lost and having the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel was their only hope. [Rom.10:14, 17 – How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ^{\[17\]} So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.](#)

- The preaching of the Gospel has always been the theme and focus of the church. When the church departs from proclaiming the Gospel, she has abandoned her purpose. We must be faithful to preach and share the Gospel.

C. The Plan (25c-26) – [according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ^{\[26\]} 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.](#) Here Paul discusses the eternal plan God had for the salvation of mankind. Following the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all were born in sin, standing in need of salvation. God was aware this would happen prior to creation, and before man was ever formed of the dust of the earth, Christ was ordained to come as sacrifice and Savior of the world.

- Now, prior to the birth of Christ, His ministry, death, burial, and resurrection, the means of salvation remained a mystery. It was prophesied and revealed through various types and shadows, but humanity did not fully grasp the eternal plan of salvation until after Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. Now through Paul and others who preached the Gospel, the plan of God for salvation was revealed and made manifest for all to see. Christ came and fulfilled the plan of God for our redemption. The plan was carried out according to God's divine will.

III. Paul speaks of Glory (27) – *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.* In his closing words, Paul rejoices in the glory of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. He referred to:

A. The Wisdom of God (27) – We must bear in mind the context of this statement. Certainly God has proven His great, unsearchable wisdom in many ways to humanity since the dawn of time. None compare to the divine wisdom our God possesses. However, Paul is speaking of the wisdom of God in regard to salvation and the Gospel message. God alone could have devised such a plan to redeem fallen man and provide eternal salvation.

- Sadly many continue to seek a “better” way of salvation. Man continues to strive for personal righteousness, seeking to come to God on his own merit. Man could never have devised a plan that would work or satisfy the righteous demands of God. I am convinced Paul was thankful for the plan of salvation. He realized salvation was not based on human worth or effort. God sent His only begotten Son to bear our sin and endure the punishment for sin. He only requires us to receive the finished work of Christ by faith. No human has the intellect to devise such a plan or the ability to satisfy God’s demands. In His wisdom, God provided the means of salvation: Christ!

B. The Way of God (27) – Lest they should forget, Paul uses these closing words as a final reminder of the sufficiency and necessity of Christ. All that we receive from the Father, (redemption, reconciliation, salvation, eternal life, and every other blessing,) was secured through Jesus Christ our Lord. Had Christ not come we would not enjoy any of the blessings we have received. He is the means and source of all that we have. Our acceptance to God and promise of eternal life are founded in Christ alone!

- Paul reveals that Jesus Christ remains the means of access to the Father. It is impossible to approach God in prayer apart from Christ the Son. We cannot worship the Father apart from offering worship to Christ. Many acknowledge God, but reject Christ. The only way to experience the fullness of God is through the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion: We have discussed and learned much through our time in Romans. I am thankful for the way the Spirit inspired Paul to conclude this marvelous book. Paul’s heart was lifted in worship to the Lord and he sought to encourage worship in those who read this precious letter. Worship should come naturally for the believer. If you are having difficulty worshipping, something stands in your way. I encourage you to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit and deal with whatever the need may be. If you are yet unsaved, having yet to receive Christ by faith, you cannot worship the Lord. I urge you to respond to His leading and receive the gift of grace by faith!