

“Forever Family of Faith”

Romans 16.25-27

Romans > VERY POSSIBLY – Most Studied Document in Human History

2000 years – Almost every Nation – Countless Millions – Read and Studied

LUTHER “Chief part of the NT, and the very purest gospel”

Samuel Taylor Coleridge – English poet – “the profoundest book in existence”

JAMES BOICE “Christianity has been the most powerful, transforming force in human history – and the book of Romans is the most, basic, most comprehensive statement of true Christianity”

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1. Good News / 2. from God / 3. for all People

1. Good News

a) The Message v. 25 “gospel” = “Good News”

Bad News > 3.23 “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

8.1,39,40 “there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

b) The Man v. 25 “the proclamation of Jesus Christ”

1.2-4 gospel...regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

16.20 “the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you”

“of” – Genitive, Attributive – describes the leading characteristic = Grace comes from Jesus

“Jesus is not just a great teacher or just a hero or martyr; nor is he just a prophet or a holy man authorized and sent by God. But in Jesus Christ we see no less than God made manifest in human flesh. All of the divine that could be concentrated in human form was embodied in that carpenter from Nazareth... The Christian faith is the only one that rests entirely on the person of its founder, and he is no mythical figure but a well-documented historical person whose life,

death, and resurrection fully endorse the majestic claims He made about Himself and others made about Him.” Michael Green

c) The Means > how ? v. 26 “now revealed and made known”

1.17 “For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed”

“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ...God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles” Galatians 1.11,12,15 16

d) The Mystery v. 25 “the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past”

“my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is - that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 3.4-6

e) The Messengers: Prophets

v. 26 “through the prophetic writings”

3.21 “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it”

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

“as it is written...”

f) Mandate v 25 “to strengthen you”

v. 20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

God to Serpent: “I will put enmity between you and the woman and ... he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” Genesis 3.15

2. from God

a) Sovereign v. 25 “to him who is able”

11.36 “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

The vision of Paul’s doxology “is of God’s ability to establish the multi-ethnic church in Rome, of which Paul has been dreaming, and to strengthen its members in truth, holiness and unity.” John Stott

b) Exclusive v. 27 “only wise God”

3.22 For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

16.17 “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.”

Jesus: “that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one” John 17.21-22

c) Wisdom v. 27 “only wise God”

God’s Wisdom revealed in Romans -

1-4 He Justifies Sinful Man and remains Just

5-8 Demand Man’s Obedience even though Salvation is Gift of Grace

9-11 Wise God choose the Family of Abraham and shows Mercy to Gentiles

12-15 Paradox of Dying to Live

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.

1534 William Tyndale on Romans: “Now go to, reader, and according to the order of Paul’s writing, even so do thou. First behold thyself diligently in the law of God, and see there thy just damnation. Secondly turn thine eyes to Christ, and see there the exceeding mercy of thy most kind and loving Father. Thirdly remember that Christ made not this atonement that thou shouldest anger God again: neither he cleansed thee, that thou shouldst return (as a swine) unto thine old puddle again: but that thou shouldest be a new creature and live a new life after the will of God and not of the flesh. And be diligent lest through thine own negligence and unthankfulness thou lose this favor and mercy again.”

d) Everlasting v 26 “eternal God”

v. 27 To Him “be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

3. for all people

a) Paul’s Gospel v. 25 “my gospel”

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

5.1,2 “we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

6.4 “We were buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

6.5 “If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

v. 26 “so that all nations might believe and obey him”

“It is fair to say that the major themes of Paul’s letter are encapsulated in the doxology: the power of God to save and to establish; the gospel and the mystery, once hidden and now revealed, which are Christ crucified and risen; the Christ-centered witness of the OT Scripture; the commission of God to make the good news universally known; the summons of all the nations to respond with obedience of faith and the saving wisdom of God, to whom all glory is due forever.”
John Stott

b) Paul’s Greetings

Chapter 16 > 33 Names / 24 in Rome \ 9 in Corinth

Mark 10.29 Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

1. Names on Paul’s Heart (v. 22 Dictated to Tertius “third”)

Diversity: Jew & Gentile, age,gender

1st Honor given to Women “Phoebe” carried this letter from Corinth

v. 5 Epaenetus – first convert in Asia

v. 13 Rufus ‘chosen in the Lord’ / son of ‘Simon of Cyrene’/ and Mom!

Mark 15.21 And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

“We are but of yesterday, and we have filled every place among you – cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market-places, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum – we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods” –

Tertullian wrote to Unbeliever about the Church in Roman Empire in 200 AD

2. Rich Variety of Graces

Phoebe – “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.”

3. Variety of Churches

v. 5 Greet the church in their house.

v. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them

v. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

v. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

vs. 21-23 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. 22 I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. 23 Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

“Roman slaves, people utterly without status in the ancient world were contacted by Paul and brought to faith in Christ and became members of the body of Christ. Are you interested when you hear that there are new believers in an Indian tribe on the upper Amazon river? Does your heart go out to those worshipping in a church in Africa whose mud pews are baked in the sun before the mud walls are built around them and the palm roof goes over them? Quartus – the fourth slave in Gaius’ household in Corinth - knew nobody in Rome and nobody in Rome had ever heard of Quartus, but he loved them and he wanted them to know it. God has his people in all these places, and there are others who have not heard the gospel. Shouldn’t you help take it to them?”
Donald Barnhouse

“No man can read (Romans)...too often or study it too well; for the more it is studied the easier it is, the more it is chewed the pleasanter it is...it is the principal and most excellent part of the New Testament... a light and a way unto the whole Scripture” William Tyndale, 1538

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When the Roll Is Called Down Here

/ Romans 16 by Fred Craddock