



God's Glory in Gospel Ministry
Romans 16:25-27

Main Idea: We should give God all the glory he deserves through Christ Jesus!

God's people should praise God eternally for the gift of his grace in Jesus (25-27).

- *God strengthens his people in his grace through the preaching of the gospel (25a).*
- *The gospel is the message of Jesus Christ, hidden for ages, revealed by the prophets, and proclaimed to the nations (25b-26a).*
- *By faith, the gospel is proclaimed in obedience to God for obedience to God (26b).*

The final verses in the letter to the Romans is identified in the English Standard Version as a "doxology." This church word comes from two Greek words: One is the word for "glory," and the other is the word for "word" or "speaking." So a doxology is a reference to praise, giving God the glory in word or song that he deserves for who he is and all that he has done. This is a fitting way to describe these final verses, and Paul's message is clear: God's people should praise God eternally for the gift of his grace in Jesus! This is the ending emphasis of the letter to the Romans. Verse 27 calls for glory to the "only wise God . . . forevermore." And verses 25-26 make it clear that this praise is in response to the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ. We should give God all the glory he deserves through Jesus Christ. In fact, God's people need to be reminded at the end of this wonderful letter that so clearly proclaims and applies the gospel, that God strengthens his people in his grace through the preaching of the gospel. The church that comes together and sits under the faithful preaching of God's Word is strengthened by the grace of God who works through his Word in the hearts and minds of his people. Paul knows that the Lord can and will strengthen his church when the gospel is proclaimed and the word of Christ is preached. Additionally, the gospel is the message of Jesus Christ, hidden for ages, revealed by the prophets, and proclaimed to the nations. What an incredible message to consider! This is a summary of the Bible! It's the very truth of the unfolding of God's redemptive plan through his Son that he announced at the fall in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3) and that he had established before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1). It's the mystery that was revealed by the prophets and the truth that Paul had preached to the nations. The gospel is the message of Jesus Christ, and by faith, the gospel is proclaimed in obedience to God for obedience to God. In other words, the gospel is proclaimed in obedience to the command of God. Paul proclaimed the gospel because of God's call to his church to proclaim the gospel, but Paul also proclaimed the gospel for the purpose of calling others to obedience by faith. From faith and for faith, we continue in the work of the gospel to the praise of the glory of the only wise God through Jesus Christ!

1. God is able to strengthen us through the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. Do you believe this? How have you experienced this in your life as a Christian? What does this fact say about our need to worship together and to sit under sound, biblical preaching? If you were encouraging someone to come to church, how would you use the truth in this verse to encourage or challenge them?



2. What does it mean that the gospel was a “mystery that was kept secret for long ages?” Connect this to the Bible. How would you explain that God’s plan of salvation through the sacrifice of his Son was a mystery for many generations.
3. How did the prophets “disclose” the mystery that was kept secret? What are some specific prophecies in Isaiah and Daniel that point to God’s plan of salvation through his Son? How are the nations in view in Old Testament prophecies related to the Messiah?
4. The preaching of the gospel isn’t optional. It’s by the command of the eternal God! What are some passages in the New Testament that validate Paul’s statement in this verse? How do we see gospel proclamation commanded? How does the church obey this command? How do you – as a member of the church – obey this command?
5. The end result of proclamation that’s in aim by the Lord’s design is the obedience of faith. What does that mean? Use the BlueLetterBible app to study the word “obedience” and the word “faith.” Put these two words together in context in this verse to discuss what the Lord desires through the faithful preaching of his Word.
6. How are you praising God for the gift of his grace in Jesus Christ? Are you glorifying the Lord through Jesus Christ? What does this look like in your life? What does this look like in our church?
7. Spend time worshiping together (sing, pray, or share praise), giving God all the glory he deserves through Christ Jesus.