The Book of Romans

Epilogue

The Mission: God’s righteousness is revealed as His grace is proclaimed to all nations. Romans 15:13–16:27)

***God’s Glory, Our Strength and Joy. . . Or, How the Gospel Gives Life and Makes Life Worth Living***

***Romans 16:25-27***

Paul was transformed by the gospel, and dedicated his life to sharing this good news with all nations. In fact, he called it “my gospel.” It is to be our passion, too. But what is the gospel, and how does it change lives? And how does all this exalt God and bring people to worship Him? The closing verses of Romans include a final doxology (song of praise) that gives us answers.

***What is the gospel?***

*“. . . and the proclamation of Jesus Christ.”*

The gospel IS the proclamation of Jesus Christ in His being sent by God the Father to live and die for sinners and then be raised from the dead as proof and a model and our Great High Priest. To know the gospel is to know God’s will for the world and His plan from eternity to eternity. God does not have many forms, representations, or messages. There are not many paths to Him or heaven. Jesus IS God’s chosen messenger, for only He fulfills the covenant with Abraham to bless the nations as his “Seed.” Matthew 3:16, 17; 17:5; John 1:14, 18; 12:27-33; 14:8-11

***21st Century Takeaway: Have you given up the idea that all paths lead to God and embraced His Son as your only hope?***

***Why is the gospel glorious?***  “To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ.”

 1. It is the finally fully revealed plan of prophecy. Romans 1:1-4

 2. It reverses man’s alienation from God. Colossians 1:19-22

 3. It perfectly displays God’s righteousness. His justice is fully satisfied in Jesus’ payment for our sin AND

 His mercy is fully displayed in saving all who believe (in contrast to judging all who reject). Rom. 3:21-26

 4. It is God-centered, God-driven, God-completed. God has revealed it; God has commanded it’s

 preaching to the nations. All other “religions” encourage us to work for God in order to gain His

 approval. The gospel demonstrates God’s work for us. Hebrews 1:1-4

***21st Century Takeaway: Do you live your life for God’s glory?***

***How does it save us and keep saving us?***  “Establish you by my gospel. . .”

 We can live guilt-free since sins are fully forgiven. Hebrews 9:13, 14

 We approach God boldly without fear of disfavor. Hebrews 4:14-16

 We retain relationships through forgiveness. Matthew 18:21-35

 We battle successfully against besetting sins. Romans 6:12-14

 We participate with God in the spread of the gospel. John 15:4-8

***21st Century Takeaway: Do you preach the gospel to yourself every day?***

***1. God does all things for His own glory.***

The highest good is the glory of God. Romans 11:28-36

***2. God’s glory is best displayed in the gospel.***

Earth is the stage for the cosmic drama demonstrating the righteousness and infinite wisdom of God. Have you embraced it? Have you told others? Is it your life? Rev. 22:1-5