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From Salutation to Doxology
Romans 16:23-27

INTRO: In verses 21-23, Paul, after a strong warning to the churches at Rome (vss 17-18), turns once again to sending personal greeting. The earlier greetings (vss 1-16) were his own. These (vss 21-23) are from Paul's associates.

1. Timothy- this wonderful young man was special to Paul because he was faithful and he knew Paul's very heart for the ministry (Phil 2:19-22).
 - A. He calls him "my workfellow." Timothy was a worker not a shirker, a participator, not a spectator.
 - B. Timothy was a true yokefellow; he pulled with Paul from the beginning on! He was Paul's right hand man. Where are the Timothy's?
 2. Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater- my kinsmen.
 - A. Some see them as being blood kin of Paul, others a fellow countrymen.
 - B. As Christians, they are brothers because of the blood; and they have the same homeland+heaven.
 3. Tertius- here is Paul's secretary. This believer wanted to add his own greeting and does so "in the Lord." It is wonderful to be "in Christ" (II Cor 5:17). "No great man can do his work without the aid that humble helpers give him" (Barclay 220).
 4. Gaius- he is a man of hospitality. He was a man with an open house, a place at the table. Thank God for hospitable believers.
 5. Erastus- this man was a well known public official in Corinth; yet he was not ashamed of Christ, nor the Lord's servant Paul. He may have been city treasurer or commissioner of Public works. You can be in politics and serve God.
 6. Quartus- "a brother." This is dear. He was a good, faithful, child of God. From this salutation, Paul gives a short benediction like the one he gave in verse 20. Now Paul moves on to give a rousing doxology. He praises God from whom all blessings flow. He praises God for the glorious Gospel that tells of what Christ Jesus His Son has done for us. These verses are a summing up of the powerful Gospel he preached and loved (Rom 1:16).
- I. VS 25a, THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL ENABLES MEN TO STAND
- A. Praise God for the Gospel that not only saves but establishes those who trust in Christ.
 1. "Now to him that is of power." Salvation is of the Lord, praise goes to Him, not to me, not to you.
 2. "Stablish" is the Greek word *sterizo* meaning "to make firm and stable,

to give spiritual strength.”

- a) We are strengthened by knowing the truth, knowing the way of salvation, and knowing Christ as Lord (II Tim 1:12).
- b) The world has no such peace, no such assurance, no such foundation.
- c) It is through the Gospel that the weak are made strong, the fallen are lifted, the insecure become secure, and the lost are saved.

B. What is this Gospel?

1. Paul defines it in I Cor 15:1-4. It is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
2. “Paul had a singular subject.... When Paul preached, words like these fell from his lips: ‘God forbid that I should glory save in the cross. I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live....yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Greene 508).

C. The Gospel will help you through the storms of life.

1. Life is hard. The Gospel will keep us standing spiritually when life has beaten us down.
2. The Gospel will keep us going when life is at its worst. The true believer perseveres because of the Gospel.

II. VS 25b, THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL PREACHES JESUS CHRIST

A. Without Jesus Christ, there is no Gospel! Not all the Bible is the Gospel, not all of the Bible is good news.

B. Without men to preach the Gospel, other men will never hear it (Rom 10:9-15).

1. Those who are found of Christ are to tell others of His saving grace.
 - a) We need to do as Andrew did after he was saved (John 1:40-42).
 - b) Those who have been allowed to hear the Gospel are duty bound to tell others of Christ and His love (I Thes 2:4; II Cor 4:3-5).
2. Christ is at the center of the Gospel; He is the center and heart of it (I Cor 1:23-24; Rom 10:17).

III. VS 25c, THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL IS THE REVELATION OF A MYSTERY

A. The mystery was there throughout all ages and was revealed when Christ came and was revealed to the world.

1. “With the coming of Jesus something unique happened, eternity invaded time and God emerged on earth” (Barclay 222).
2. The fact that Christ would come to be the Redeemer is found throughout the Old Testament (Gen 3:15; Isa 53:11, etc.).

B. The Gospel is revealed truth. Note these revealed truths:

1. Christ in His fullness is revealed (Col 2:2).
2. Christ as Savior of the Gentiles is revealed (Col 1:27).
3. That the Gentiles are included in God's promise (Eph 3:6; 6:19).

IV. VS 26, THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVANGELIZATION OF THE NATIONS

- A. The Gospel is to be proclaimed to every creature, to all the world (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).
1. When Paul writes in the verse "according to the commandment of the everlasting God," He is talking about the great commission.
 2. Speaking of the great commission and it being God's command Stott says: "behind the risen Christ who gave it stood the eternal God" (405).
- B. "For the obedience of the faith."
1. So men might hear the Gospel, believe it, and obey Christ. Romans 10:17.

V. VS 27, THE GOSPEL'S AUTHOR GLORIFIED

- A. God is only wise.
1. He foresaw our need of salvation.
 2. He chose us in Him from eternity (Eph 1:4).
- B. He provided salvation through His Son in eternity past.
1. Christ is the lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8).
 2. Salvation was provided and promised before the world began (Titus 1:2).
- C. All praise goes to God through Christ!

CONCLUSION: The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16).