

ROMANS

TRANSFORMED!

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: AUGUST 23, 2020

Developing a love for the mysteries!
Romans 16:21-27

A final group that links Paul to the Roman church family (16:21-23).

Rom. 16:21 *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.*

Paul's final doxology to God & encouragement to us (16:25-27).

1. Our God possesses the ability to strengthen us internally (25a) . . .

Rom. 16:25a *Now to him who is able to strengthen you . . .*

2. . . . by the power of the gospel (25b-26a) . . .

Rom. 16:25b . . . *according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26a but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations . . .*

3. . . . due to its universal provision & eternal influence (26b).

Rom. 16:26b . . . *through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—*

4. Our God alone deserves universal acclaim for His wise provision (27).

Rom. 16:27 *to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

How do these "mysteries" help us live?

1. They answer the specific question of Romans 16:25, "How does God strengthen His people?" More generally, they reveal additional benefits of the gospel that we would never know unless God revealed them to us.
2. Much of the NT contains these mysteries. Note that Paul's apostolic ministry centered around these mysteries.

1Cor. 2:6 *Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; 7 but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; 8 the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written [in Isa 64:4], "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM." 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

1Cor. 4:1 *This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.*

Here's a wonderful example of a mystery in Romans!

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

3. Here is a menu of specific mysteries to make your favorites!
 - a. Characteristics of Christian maturity versus immaturity – Heb 5:11-14
 - b. Satanic deception leading to anxiety & worry versus humble trust leading to peace & strength – 1 Peter 5:6-11 cp 2 Cor 11:3
 - c. Thriving relationships as God's temple versus shallow alienation– Eph 2:11-22
 - d. Satisfying life with Jesus versus pointless activity – John 15:1-17
 - e. Experiencing growing love versus fear & uncertainty – 1 John 4:7-21
 - f. Our freedom to forgive versus the bondage of bitterness – Matt 18:21-35 & Ephesians 4:31-32
 - g. Expectant prayer versus an uncertain future – Matt 7:7-11

Approach the above mysteries in this manner.

1. Read one passage three times each day for a week; ask God for insight about your reading.
2. At every reading jot down ideas that impress you.
3. On day three of your reading begin to paraphrase into your own words the passage a verse at a time.
4. On day 4 determine what you would like to do or implement into your life based on your passage.
5. On day 7 discuss with the Savior how the last week in this passage has helped you most. What further changes would you like to see take place?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Romans 16:25-27. What does Paul ask God to do for the Roman believers?
2. Put into your own words what Paul means by "mystery" in 25-26. How do the verses we looked at in 1 Corinthians help us understand this concept?
3. Look at the list of seven mysteries above. Select 2 or 3 that most appeal to you. What is it about them that piques your interest?
4. Now choose one mystery to delve into in the coming week. Why this particular one?
5. Share with someone the results & benefits you experienced.

SONGS

"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" - Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

"Exalted Over All" – Andi Rozier, Jason Ingram, Jess Cates

"What A Beautiful Name"– Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

"Only Wise God" – Valley Bible Worship

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$21,042.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,120,939.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,154,307.00