Romans 16:25-27 Now to him who is able to strengthen you— according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, 26but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to all the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God, resulting in the obedience of faith— 27to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.

We are in the book of Romans, the very end of the book of Romans! How much at the end, well, there aren’t any more verses after the ones before us. These are the last three verses of the book. The last three verses that form a blessing, or another fancy word for that we like for such words is: doxology. Translated that means “words of praise.” These are concluding words of praise to the Book of Romans. And what awesome words they are.

Recognize first the importance of the Book of Romans. Written by the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul around 57 A.D., Paul expresses his desire to visit the fledgling church in Rome and to share with them the life saving and awesome Gospel message of Jesus Christ. This book of Romans then proceeds to lay out the Christian faith in a wonderful and systematic way. It has been said that if the whole Bible was lost except for the book of Romans, not a single doctrine would be lost. It is that thorough and complete in what it teaches. It speaks to us clearly of Jesus Christ and the salvation He brings.

But we are at the end of the book, how can we benefit from what it says? Because of what these words say. Let’s jump in and look at our verses under this theme: **THE WONDER OF JESUS.**

The first thing you need to know is that the essence of the words before us is this: **“Now to him who is able to strengthen you…To God, who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Amen.** Here in these words we have a section of praise and thanks to God for everything he is and does. That’s why this is called a “doxology.” Words of praise! What I like is that into these words are found inserted a couple of parenthetical sentences, sentences of explanation that all the more fully reveal the wonder of Jesus. But before we speak of the parenthetical words let’s just grasp the awe of the base sentence that is found.

Our words start, **“To him.”** It is clear who this is referring as we continue to look at our words. The **“to Him”** is God, for our sentence says, **“To him…To God!”** With that we find some facts of God revealed. Those facts are rather important.

First it says, **“To God who is able to strengthen.”** The impact of these words is made all the stronger when you understand that in the previous verses of chapter 16 we have just heard words of admonition to the believers. Those words say, **“But I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause division and offenses contrary to the teaching you learned, and keep away from them. For such people are not serving Christ our Lord but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they seduce the hearts of the unsuspecting.”** Not only have we had the entire scope of Christian doctrine laid out for us in this wonderful book but as the book is closing we are especially warned about compromising our faith by following false teachers. In other words, we are engaged in a battle. That battle has eternal implications and realities. In order to be in that battle and to be a victor in that battle we are going to need strength. The simple truth is that this strength, the thing that will make us stable, establish us, and make us firm, will be God. God is our Rock and fortress, and ever present help in trouble. We need God’s strength in order to endure and there is no doubt that the Apostle wants us to grasp that it is God who is capable and willing to supply our needs.

He goes on: **“To God who alone is wise.”** Remember the world stands opposed to God. It is the natural bent of mankind to hate and think God nothing but total foolishness and tripe. We are told that God is **“wise.”** He is learned, skilled, experienced, and all wrapped up with wisdom. Now you might be able to deny that it was God’s wisdom that created and laid the foundations of the universe but what you can’t deny is what the message of God is. It is so different, so starkly different from what the world has to say. The world wants you to earn your salvation. Do this, do that, be this, be that, such is the message of every man made work righteous religion! And they say, Do all of this after you have tossed salt over your shoulder, spun in circles three times and then held your nose with one eye closed…do this and you will earn the favor and love of God! It is total silliness! The true God, the God of wisdom, has revealed that He will save, he will do it all. He will provide a Savior. He will forgive our sins. He will send His Holy Spirit to give you the gift of faith and to work in your life to keep that faith strong. The true Christian faith is one that reveals that God has done it all for us so that we can be sure and certain of his promises. God is wise and it shows in the true faith he has given.

To this God, we are told, belongs glory forever. We are to praise God, to give him thanks, honor, respect and love. Not because we have to but because of and through Jesus Christ. Even this giving of glory God does not leave in our hands but brings it about and causes it through Jesus! You get the feeling that Jesus is everything?

Now it is time for us to go back and look more closely at the parenthetical statements that are inserted into this sentence. Words that are going to highlight, explain and all the more point to the wonder of Jesus. So here is what I want you to grasp. The God who is going to strengthen, who is wise and who deserves all glory forever…we are going to find three, well, I boiled it down to three, wonderful and eye-opening lessons to remind us of why all of this is true.

Lesson 1. God will strengthen, is wise and is to be given glory….**”according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ.”** All of this is true because of the Gospel. Now when Paul writes, “**my gospel**,” he isn’t telling you that the gospel is something he dreamed up and promoted all on his own, like it was his invention or his idea. Paul is telling you it is **“my gospel”** because it is what he believes, he has a personal stake in this, a stake that is granted and given by Jesus Christ. Because the gospel and of every letter that Paul wrote through the Holy Spirit is the proclaiming of Jesus as the Christ and the Savior of the world. The gospel is the message of how God sent his Son to our world to be the atoning sacrifice for sins, all of our sins. The gospel is the good news that in Jesus and through Jesus we have the forgiveness of sins and thus the gift of eternal life with God. We know this is the fact because Jesus did exactly what God foretold and revealed in his Old Testament. More specifically we know this is true because Jesus suffered, died, and was raised from the dead as absolute proof that he is the Savior, the Christ of God. It is the gospel that is the power of salvation.

Lesson 2. **“According to the revelation of the mystery that was veiled in silence for long ages past, but now has been revealed through the prophetic Scriptures and made known to the Gentiles, in keeping with the command of the eternal God!”** Now if the resurrection of Jesus is not enough wonder for you then note these words. Because these words are telling you that everything about Jesus, everything that happened to him, everything that was to be, yes, everything that is, was all revealed by God.

It is true, the revelation of Jesus was a mystery. A mystery is a secret that is hidden from human understanding and which God has revealed. Such is Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament, parts, pieces, segments, even whole sections of the life and times of Jesus were shared. But few understood and got it, until God completely revealed it in Jesus. That’s why you find the Jewish religious leaders so confused about John and later Jesus. Are you the Christ? Are you the Prophet? Are you Elijah? They ask because they recognize the mystery of God’s Word and it is clear they do not understand it. They don’t because they look at God’s Word with an eye to works and self-righteousness, rather than looking for the Savior who will do it all. And even once they see who Jesus really is, they reject him, turn away and spurn him, actually kill him because they would rather keep their way of life than be saved.

Yet please note we are told that what was veiled is now revealed. With Jesus’ help and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God who leads into all truth, we can see Jesus revealed in the Old Testament, see his wonder, see his salvation, see his sacrifice and resurrection all revealed in the prophetic Scriptures and now made known even to the Gentiles. This revealing, this unveiling is exactly in keeping with the command and will of God. God planned it all. God put it all into motion. God revealed parts and pieces, and as time went on God revealed more and more. And then God brought it all to fruition: God sent Jesus!

Jesus clarifies it all. Jesus lives it all. Jesus fulfills it all. Because Jesus is the heart and core of God’s promise of salvation. Jesus is the Passover Lamb, the scapegoat, the burnt offering, the fellowship offering, the sin offering, and the blood sprinkled on the atonement cover of the Ark. The ceremonial law of God was about Jesus. And Jesus does it all: flawlessly! Jesus becomes our Savior from sin and our sure and certain confidence of eternal life.

Lesson 3. My favorite line in all of this because what it reveals is so important to grasp. Everything we have spoken of so far is for one purpose, gives of one incredible result: our text says, **“resulting in the obedience of faith.”** All that happened in and with Jesus, all that was promised of old, it was all for one purpose. In our section it is called: **“the obedience of faith.”** Please note the obedience of faith is revealed in Scriptures and it is made know to the Gentiles. It is revealed and made known by the command of God. So now we need to ask: What is this obedience of faith?

I can tell you right now that there are many, many out there who will tell you this phrase says that when you have faith you need to be obedient to Jesus. They teach that your faith is your obedience. Such a teaching makes me sad. If obeying were within our power at any point, then why send Jesus? Why the suffering and death? Why the agony of eternal hell? So we could be told we need to obey? More Law? Fiddlesticks!

This phrase is speaking to us of what Jesus has done. He has done the obeying. He has kept the Word of God perfect and holy. He paid for our sins, completely and fully in accord with the will of his Father. Jesus is our Savior. This obedience is a part of faith, it is what we receive as a gift of faith. Simply put, as we are given the gift of faith, we are accounted as holy, pure and perfect in obedience to the Father. All because of Jesus. It is not the obedience that faith must possess, but rather this is the obedience that faith is full of because of Jesus. With faith we are reconciled to God, we are considered holy, we are seen by God as without sin in Jesus. Please note this is the teaching found throughout the New Testament. Please don’t take this beautiful phrase and make it some sort test. “You are a child of God because in faith you obey.” No, make it, “You are a child of God because with faith you are counted obedient.” You know, the robe of Christ righteousness, where our sins are covered because of Jesus. I have no doubt that this is what is being conveyed here.

No wonder then, we want to give God glory. No wonder then we want to look to God for strength and wisdom in our lives. It is because He grants it all. He grants it all in the wonder of Jesus. He completely and wonderfully saves us in Jesus. This is our faith and this the point of Jesus. Amen.