

## Romans Part 40 (16:21-27)

### Tuesday Night Bible Study, May 13, 2008

Romans 16:21-27: "Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you. 22 I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord. 23 Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. 24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. 25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith — 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."

#### --16:21-23: personal greetings from Paul's friends to Christians in Rome...

--verse 22 indicates that Paul employed a scribe (Tertius) to write Romans as he did for most, if not all, his epistles.

--Paul would write a sentence or two himself as a kind of signature to authenticate his letters.

--example in 2 Thessalonians: "I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write." (2 Thess 3:17)

--it is unknown why Paul employed scribes... maybe Paul had difficulty writing and poor penmanship. Maybe he had a disability or an injury that prevented him from writing... part of his "thorn in the flesh"?

--2 Cor 12:7-9: "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"

#### --KEY CONCEPTS IN PAUL'S CLOSING WORDS (16:24-27)...

--v. 24: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

--as we saw last week this and similar statements at the beginning and/or end of most of Paul's epistles encapsulates the two central themes of the Bible...

"grace" / "Lord" = "remission of sins" / "repentance" (Luke 24:46-47)

--v. 25a: "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ."

--"the preaching of Jesus Christ."

--throughout the Old Testament people learned about "remission of sins" and "repentance" through the preaching of the moral and ceremonial laws.

--in the New Testament we learn about these two central themes through "the preaching of Jesus Christ."

--"remission [forgiveness] of sins" – Jesus died as the final sacrifice to make pay for our sins.

--"repentance" – God calls us to turn from our sins and follow the living example of Jesus.

--Hebrews: 1:1-2: "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

--"establish you..."

--Col. 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

--as we follow Christ and trust in Him we grow spiritually and rather than being tossed about by the storms of life we are "established..." on solid rock.

--Ephesians 4:14-15: "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."

--v. 25b-26a: "according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest..."

--there are several theological "mysteries" spoken of throughout the New Testament...

--Romans 11:25: the mystery of Israel being spiritually blind while salvation is brought to Gentile nations.

--Ephesians ch.3: the mystery of God's plan of salvation including both Jew and Gentiles.

--1 Corinthians 15:51: the mystery of the rapture.

--1 Timothy 3:16: "the mystery of godliness".

--Colossians 1:27 speaks of "the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

--"Christ in you, the hope of glory" unlocks the mystery of God's plan to bring salvation to both Jews and Gentiles...

--before Christ, God's provision for the forgiveness of sins was dependent on the infrastructure of the ceremonial law in Israel which was physically inaccessible to most of the world.

--it was a mystery how these physical limitations could be overcome so that the entire world could experience forgiveness of sins.

--the mystery revealed is that the entire world can experience forgiveness of sins through a temple and a sacrifice that transcend time and space... through the sacrifice of Christ and a reality in heaven of which the temple on earth was merely a shadow.

--Hebrews 9:23-27: "It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself." (NIV)

--before Christ, daily sacrifices were required to cover people's sins, but when Christ dwells in our heart through faith His one time sacrifice covers all of our sins!

--"Christ in you, the hope of glory" unlocks the mystery of godliness...

--the life of Christ in us is the key to growing in godliness.

--without His life in us we have zero ability in and of ourselves to become more godly (people can fix their lives up on the surface but true spiritual growth only occurs through the Holy Spirit)

--the world focuses on qualities that we are born with but the quality that matters infinitely greater than anything else is something that nobody is born with!

--"Christ in you, the hope of glory" unlocks the mystery of the rapture...

--the supernatural transformation that will occur in us during either the rapture or the resurrection is the result of the life of Christ in us.

--the agony of dying to our sinful ways is a precursor to the wonder of being resurrected into new bodies!

--Romans 6:1-5: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection..."

--v. 26b: "...and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith."

--be ready to have an answer for when people ask you questions about your faith...

--Q: if someone came up to you and said, "I just read the Da Vinci Code and it claims that the idea of Jesus dying for our sins was made up hundreds of years after he lived. How do you know what the New Testament says is true?"

--A: Prophecy

--Q: A lot of people throw the word "prophecy" around but give me an example.

--A: Two highlights would be Isaiah 53 and Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy (see chart on last page)

--Isaiah 53... "...2 when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. ... 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ... 7 He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ... For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ... 8 For He shall bear their iniquities.12 ... He poured out His soul unto death. ... And He bore the sins of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. "

--in the New Living Translation verse 11 states: My righteous Servant [*God the Father speaking of God the Son*] shall make many to be counted righteous before God [*the Father*], for He shall bear all their sins."

--in addition to the prophetic Scriptures, the entire nation of Israel was built around the temple in Jerusalem where families from all around Israel would make pilgrimages once a year to offer a lamb to symbolically die in their place during the Passover ceremony.

--and not only that but Jesus was crucified – He died in our place – in Jerusalem during the Passover weekend!

--v. 27: "to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen."

--if we follow Christ in this life (though at times it is agonizing) we will follow Him through paradise forever...

--if we follow Christ in this life, one day we will follow Him as He returns in the clouds to reign over the earth... Paul wrote to Timothy as he waited on death row, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him." (2 Tim 2:11-12)

### --DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS PROPHECY (Daniel 9)

