

To Him Who is Able

Rom 16:25-27 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.

Having taken the last 4 Sundays of advent to bring messages from passages in Isaiah concerning the promised Christ child, this morning I am returning to the Book of Romans with the closing remarks of Paul's letter to the Roman congregation where we find a most glorious benediction and doxology. To understand what a benediction and doxology is I would point out that in our order of service in the worship hour each week we have the invocation, the benediction and then we close by singing a doxology. We begin with an Invocation, that is, we Invoke (entreat, beseech) call upon God asking Him to bless our worship. We close with a benediction, a term from the Latin bene, good and dicere to speak - that is as your pastor I express a spoken word asking God's blessing upon you as you prepare to depart. It is my custom to use those words of Paul that he expressed to the saints in Corinth when he pronounced this blessing upon them saying, *"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."* (2 Cor 13:14) And then together we close the worship service singing a Doxology. The term "doxology" is derived from the Greek, *Doxa* - glory / *logos* - a word - meaning a word of praise, wherein we acknowledge the greatness, the goodness, the power, and the mercy of our great God and Savior.

Holy Scripture is filled with doxologies to God. What I want you to do in the next few moments is to marvel, with great admiration of our God, as I read some of the doxologies that are recorded for us in the Written Word of God's revelation. First from the Old Testament; A doxology of David from 1 Chronicles 29:10-11 after he had collected gifts for the building of the Temple to be built by Solomon. While thinking on the building of the temple he, rejoicing greatly, exclaimed, *"Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Now, that's a doxology; that is a word of praise. Next let us go to the Psalms and consider just a couple; "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen" (Ps 41:12) "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."* Ps 72:18-19

Now some from the New Testament; Jesus in the close of the prayer he taught us to pray, He instructed us to close our prayer with a doxology, *"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."* - Matt 6:13 Peter's doxology in 1 Peter 4:11 *". . . that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."* Then there is this one from 1 Tim 1:17 *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."* And this one from Revelation 5 where we are told that every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them cried out, *"Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"* And finally Jude's doxology, in verses 24-25 *"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."*

Now do you see what a doxology is? What a "word of praise" is? It is a statement of God's greatness, power, glory, honor, wisdom, eternity and His absolute authority over all things. I want to quote Dr. Piper when referring to the doxologies of Scripture he said, "The Apostles loved to use doxology because they loved the glory of God."

We have already seen one doxology from Paul in the Book of Romans in chapter 11 when coming to the close of his doctrinal dissertation, and if I may add, where I do not doubt but that Paul must have been overwhelmed with the greatness of God's saving grace, of the good news of Jesus Christ and thus he exclaimed, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Rom 11:36

And now as we come to the close of the series of messages we began some months ago, and as Paul now comes to the close of his letter to the saints in Rome, he pronounces a final benediction and doxology which he begins with these words of benediction, "Now to Him who is able to establish you

This whole book has been about the gospel. I would remind you that Paul had said in his introductory remarks that he was *"ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also."* (Rom. 1:15) And then went on to proclaim *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."* (Rom. 1:16)

- A. The first part of the doxology is a benediction for He commends them to God. - *"Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ."*
 1. What is it about this One to whom Paul commends the saints? What is that stands out about this one to the Apostle?
 - a. Is it that He created the heavens and the earth?
 - b. Is it that He is the One who upholds all these things by the Word of His power?
 - c. Is it that He is the King eternal, immortal, invisible?
 - d. Is it that He is the One that raised Jesus from the dead?
 - e. All the above would be proper and glorious,

2. But what is special about this benediction is that he commends them to . . . “The One who is **able to establish them** according to his gospel”
 - a. What is it that Paul desires in behalf of the church?
 - b. The exact meaning of the word translated “establish” means to “make stable, to be placed firmly, to be set fast. To be placed on a solid foundation.
 - c. These saints in Rome will soon suffer greatly for their faith I think this is why he commends them to that one who is able to make them steadfast in the gospel.
3. Paul desires that God’s elect be commended to that One who is able to **keep them from falling** and to **present them faultless** before the most High, the most Holy God.

B. What an excellent benediction to this glorious letter proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. For the gospel is about:
 - a. A salvation wrought by God.
 - b. A salvation wherein God’s elect are kept by God.
 - c. A salvation where one who had no desire for God, has now been placed and established firmly in a love for and a devotion to God.
2. The Psalmist spoke of this salvation in this manner.

*Ps 40:2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and **set my feet upon a rock**, and established my steps.*

3. Think of what your condition was in your unsaved state described as a horrible pit.
 - a. The Gentiles had been without God and therefore without hope.
 - b. How is that different from your condition by natural birth?
2. And now think of Paul commending you to Him who brought you up out of a horrible pit and set your feet upon a rock.
 - a. Unto Him who lifted you from sins depth and granted you spiritual blessings in heavenly places.
 - b. Unto Him who has raised you up that you might sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
 - c. Unto Him who delivered you from the power of the devil and will preserve you for His heavenly kingdom.
 - d. Unto Him who is faithful, who will establish you and keep you from the evil one.
3. This is what it means to be established in the gospel.
 - a. You belong to Him who has provided so great salvation.
 - b. You belong to Him who sent His Son to redeem his elect.
 - c. You belong to Him who loved you and gave Himself for you.

CONCLUSION: This whole book of Romans is about a God who, by His grace alone, through faith alone, for His glory alone has redeemed His elect by His power alone.

Let’s let God sum it up for us this morning through His prophet Jeremiah where God says:

*Jer 24:6-7 For **I will** set My eyes on them for good, and **I will** bring them back to this land; **I will** build them and not pull them down, and **I will** plant them and not pluck them up. Then **I will** give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and **I will** be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.*

In this benediction Paul commends you to Him who can save to the uttermost all those who call upon God

If you want a benediction, if you want a blessing that will give you faith and confidence this benediction is that kind of benediction. For it speaks of one who is able, to establish you.

Let us let this doxology of Peter explain what this benediction means.

*1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to **His abundant mercy** has begotten us again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an **inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**, who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

No wonder Jesus said: "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32