

**Title:** We Love the Church

**Passage:** Romans 16:20-27

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Key Truths:

- Your God reigns! He is King. To believe Him is to love and obey Him.
- Christ is the king over both the Jew and the Gentile. Just as our King has embraced you for His glory, then we are to accept and love one another.
- Be alert for the evil within our hearts and in the midst of the church.
- The only wise God knows all things What comes about from God's wisdom? Your salvation through Christ!

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How has the truth in the book of Romans changed your life? What has the book of Romans done to you?
- In what specific ways can you welcome others in the love of Christ? How can you counter tendencies to isolate or be selfish with your time?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

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**Introduction**

Why did Paul write Romans?

Romans 1:5

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,

Romans 16:26

but has now been disclosed and 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—

- Obedience through faith
  - Mentioned both start and end of the book.

Romans 10:15

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

- To believe the Gospel is to obey it.

Which Gospel?

- Your God reigns! He is King. To believe Him is to love and obey Him.

Romans 10:15

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

- Quotes Isaiah 52

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

Romans was an exposition of Isaiah (quoting it more than any other Old Testament book)

- Christ is the king over both the Jew and the Gentile.
  - Truth seen in Isaiah that is laid out in Romans.

Romans 10:12

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.

- Just as King has embraced you for His glory, then accept all and one another.
- Why chapter 16 is written.
  - To show the Gospel is truly international.
    - 16 names listed that where show wide affection - both Jews and Gentiles.
      - Context? Jews and Gentiles were infighting between each other.
        - Proper response:

Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

- God calls us to embrace one another in love.

**Passage:**

Romans 16:20-27

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and 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—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Context of Passage:**

#### Romans 16:17

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

- the danger is greater within the church than without.
  - Watch out for the evil within our hearts and in the midst of the church.

#### Romans 13:1

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

- As to Nero, the evil emperor, submit to Him.
  - But focus on the life of the Church.

#### Lifespan

- From age 18 to age 90, you only have 334 months to live (outside of sleep).
  - Culture: current trajectories have people spending over 300 hours in front of a screen.
    - Meaning only about 20 hours that is used meaningfully.
- God calls us to know Him and together with others.

#### **Romans 16:20**

***“And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.***

- We love and serve through the power of Christ.

#### **Romans 16:21**

***Timothy my fellow worker greets you, and so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.”***

- Paul names 4 Jewish Christians.
  - Timothy: half-Jewish/half-Greek, young pastor, faithful co-worker with Paul, wrongly imprisoned.

**Romans 16:22-23**

***“I, Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.” “Gaius, host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer greets you, and Quartus, the brother.***

- Paul names 4 Gentile Christians
  - Book of Romans was dictated by a Jew (Paul) but written down by a Gentile (Tertius)
- Names of importance
  - Tertius: third-string slave
  - Quartus: fourth-string slave

Fellowship of 9 (those mentioned v. 21-23)

- apostle as well as layman of the church.
- both Jews and Gentiles
- both slaves and free

**Romans 16:24**

***[The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.]”***

**Romans 16:25a**

“Now to Him who is able to strengthen you

- God is all-powerful.
  - How does God use His power?
    - He exerts all that power to strengthen / empower you
      - not threaten
  - God gives you faith. Sustains your faith.

**Romans 16:25b**

***according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,***

- How does God exert His power?
  - Through the Gospel.

### Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

- The Gospel is the power of God

### ***Romans 16:25-26***

**according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,"but now is manifested, and by the *Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles, leading to obedience of faith;***

- God revealed His Word and made things more fully known through Jesus Christ.
- The result?
  - "leading to obedience of faith"
    - Who? See:

### ***Romans 16:27***

***to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen."***

- The only wise God
  - He knows all things
- What comes about from God's wisdom?
  - Your salvation!

### 1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.