THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"A Last Look Upward"
Romans 16:21-27

TAKE A LOOK

1. Paul has just commended the believers at Rome (v. 19a). However, the Apostle is quick to advise them concerning good and evil (v. 19b).
2. Then there is hope expressed concerning Satan (v. 20a) and grace invoked (v. 20b). This entire final chapter is filled with personal concerns of Paul for others. It's a chapter of great blessing.
3. Paul remembers Timothy, his fellow-worker, Lucius (only mentioned here in Bible), Jason (cf. Acts 17:5), and Sosipater (Acts 20:4). They were all related to the Apostle (v. 22a).
4. Tertius was Paul's scribe and he sends greetings (v. 22b). So does Gaius, Paul's host in Corinth (cf. 1 Cor. 1:14), and one who also showed hospitality to other believers (v. 23a). The City Treasurer of Corinth, an influential man, also sends greetings. Finally Quartus, one of the brothers sends greetings (v. 23b). Paul had space for all to send a word. Praise God!
5. Now comes the final comments of Paul to the Roman believers. Listen to his warm concerns as he expresses a doxology to God.

1. GOD'S POWER v. 25a
   a. Noted

God's power is clearly noted. The term used is actually of His ability to perform. Surely, He is an omnipotent God. There is nothing outside of His ability.

   b. Directed

In the context, God is indicated as the One able to stablish the Roman believers. This same verb is used by Peter (1 Pet. 5:10). It means to set fast and has the thought of fixed (cf. Luke 16:26; 22:32). Thus Paul shows God as able to make effectively and permanently firm His people.

2. GOD'S PROVISION v. 25b

NOTE: God's power to make firm His people is in accord with several provisions of God. Study them:

   a. The Gospel

Earlier Paul has identified the Gospel with himself (2:16; 2 Tim. 2:8). This free grace Gospel was unusually associated with Paul (1:16, 17; Eph. 3:1-10). It is the total Gospel to which Paul makes

reference, not merely a redemption from sin. The essence of the thought is that God's work to stablish the Romans would be in correspondence or in exact parallel with Paul's Gospel. In other words, just what the Gospel says about, sin, Satan, Christ, etc. will be used of God to stablish Roman believers.

b. The preaching

While the Gospel above relates to the actual message, this matter refers to the proclamation of that message. Gloriously, that proclamation speaks of Jesus Christ. He is the very object of the proclamation. This expression softens any sort of personal emphasis from "my" Gospel. Stablishing will be in correspondence with our blessed Lord proclaimed.

NOTE: The above two items are objects of a single preposition meaning in accord with.One more preposition follows in v. 25.

c. The mystery

The revelation of the mystery is an entirely N.T. concept. The stablishing of Roman believers is in accord with the mystery. It has been kept in silence (perfect tense) for ages, virtually since the beginning of history, indeed, from eternity past. The mystery relates to the Gospel of God's Grace and the Church (cf. Eph. 3:1-10; Col. 1:24-29). This is the great secret revealed in the N.T. Knowing it will establish a believer.

3. GOD'S PURPOSE v. 26

a. To manifest the mystery

What God had kept hidden is now brought out in the light. The wraps are off the mystery.

b. To make known the mystery

God does not keep His own in ignorance. Knowledge is God's intent. It is done:

1) By Scripture The constant testimony of God is the Word. It is N.T. prophetic Scripture.

2) By commandment God's sovereign act is involved.

3) By all nations The mystery reaches out to all nations. This is biblical universalism.

4) By obedient faith Here, as in 1:5 and 16:19, faith is characterized by obedience.

4. GOD'S PRAISE v. 27

Everything is intended to come to this culmination: an ascription of praise and glory to "the only wise God." It is possible through Christ (Mediator) and is to be forever. Amen!

THAT'S IT The close of the book of Romans suggests the course of Christian experience : to glorify God.