

THE MESSENGER'S BLESSING: GOD IS ABLE TO ESTABLISH YOU

ROMANS 16:25–27

Introduction

God is able to establish the believer. The word “establish” (*sterixai*) means to strengthen, secure, make stable, set fast and make firm. The one thing men long for is to be secure, strong and established firmly in life. God is able to fulfil this longing. God is able to establish and strengthen man and to give him a strong life.

- I. Establish you by the gospel (v. 25).
- II. Establish you by the proclamation of Christ (v. 25).
- III. Establish you by God's revelation of the mystery (vv. 25-26).
- IV. The benediction (v. 27).

I. Romans 16:25 *Spiritual Growth, Stability, Steadfastness*

Believers are established and made strong by the gospel. Note a significant point.

Paul calls the gospel, “my gospel.” He does not mean that he possesses the gospel, or that he is the author and creator of it. He does not mean that he has formulated a man-made gospel that men are to follow. He simply means that he is a preacher of God's gospel, and God uses the gospel which he and other preachers proclaim to strengthen believers. God is the Sovereign Majesty of the universe who possesses the message of the glorious gospel. God is the Author and Creator of the message, not Paul nor any other preacher. But note: Paul and other preachers are ambassadors; they are the representatives of God who carry forth the gospel of God. The preacher of the gospel stands before the world with *God's message*. He has the right and the authority to proclaim the gospel, and the gospel proclaimed comes forth from his voice. In this sense it is his message — his gospel — that God uses to establish and strengthen believers.

2 Cor 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

John 15:16 “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”

John 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.” [the word of the gospel given by God]

Acts 26:16 ‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.’

Acts 20:32 “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

1 Pet 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

II. Romans 16:25 Proclamation of Jesus Christ

Believers are established and made strong by the proclamation or preaching of Jesus Christ. The preaching of Christ can mean either the message preached by Christ Himself or the message about Christ that is preached by others. Both meanings make sense, and both are certainly true, for the message of salvation preached by Christ and by His followers is the same.

Heb 2:3 How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.

John 3:14-15 "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

John 8:51 "I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 3:17-18 "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

III. Romans 16:25–26 The Mystery of the Gospel

Believers are established and made strong by God's revelation of the mystery of the gospel. Note three points.

1. The mystery of the gospel had been a secret since the world began. The word "mystery" (musteriou) does not mean something obscure and difficult to understand nor something that has to be searched out and solved by men. It simply means...
 - some truth that was not previously known.
 - some truth that *could not* be discovered by human reason.
 - some truth that had to be *revealed by God* if it was ever to be known.

The gospel could never have been known by man. It is not a creation of man's mind, of his rationalizations, concepts, thoughts and ideas as to how man is to become reconciled to God. Man could never and can never figure out how to become acceptable to God. No man in this physical world could ever penetrate the spiritual world, no matter what some have claimed. Jesus said so:

John 3:13 *“No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man.”*

The spiritual world and the message of the spiritual world have always been a mystery, and they would have remained a mystery if God had not acted and revealed the spiritual world and dimension to man.

2. The mystery of the gospel is now revealed by the commandment of God in the prophetic Scriptures. God wants the world to know the gospel; therefore, He has commanded that it be revealed and proclaimed to the world. But note the crucial point: it is revealed by the prophetic Scriptures (dia graphon prophetikon). This is extremely important, for it tells us exactly where we are to find out about God and His message to the world. We do not discover God by natural reasoning: God reveals Himself to us.

Thought 1. There are two questions that desperately need to be studied by everyone.

- 1) Since God has revealed how men are to become acceptable to Him, why do men continue to create their own ideas about how to reach God? Why do men continue to think they will be acceptable to God if they can just do enough good to pacify God? Why do most men continue to think that God will never reject them, that they are not evil enough to be unacceptable to God?
- 2) Since God has revealed the gospel in the prophetic Scriptures, why do men not rush to the Scriptures to find the truth? Why do men not search the Scriptures daily to find out what God has revealed?

Rom 1:2-4 *The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Rom 3:21-22 *But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference.*

3. The mystery of the gospel is revealed for a purpose: to lead all nations to be obedient to Christ. Very simply, God wants from us what any person wants from others: love and trust. We all want others...
 - to love us and to care about us.
 - to trust us and have confidence in us.

John 6:28-29 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 15:10 "If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:6 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision [religious ritual] nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

1 John 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.

IV. Romans 16:27 Benediction

The benediction is a glorious declaration of praise.

⇒ God is the God of the gospel; therefore, He is the only wise God. As the only wise God and as the Author of the gospel, He is due praise and glory forever.

⇒ But note the simple and clear fact that is proclaimed again and again by Romans: God can be approached and praised only through Jesus Christ.

John 4:42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Acts 5:31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Saviour that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.

1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst.

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved

us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Heb 7:25 *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

Heb 8:6 *But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*

Heb 9:15 *For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance — now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

Heb 9:24 *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.*

Heb 12:24 *To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.*

1 John 2:1 *My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

1 John 4:14 *And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. ■*