

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from ²⁷ faith — to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

My first source of attempting to understand these verses were the footnotes in the NIV Study Bible. That did not satisfy, so I referenced the almost endless scholarly commentaries written about these three verses. They ranged from one-liners to multiple pages. My simple understanding follows.

These final verses of Romans are a doxology and a summary of Paul's letter to the Romans. *Doxa* -glory, *logos*-word, words of glory.

Verse 25. The key word to understand in verse 25 is "establish". What it means is to be stable to be on solid ground, not wobbly, not shaky. When we are established (stable) in our faith so that we can endure all the troubles that life throws at us. When we are established in the Gospel, we will understand the revelation of the long-hidden mystery of redemption.

Verse 26. Even though the prophets announced God's plan of redemption it was through Jesus that the plan was made evident. The mystery of redemption now revealed God's call to all nations is to be obedient to the faith and obey God. Some versions of the Bible use the word "gentiles" not nations.

Verse 27. Glory be to God, the ultimate purpose of all things. The perfect mode of being human is to live for God's glory.

Are we part of the establishment or firmly established in Christ? We do not do this on our own, God has promised to establish us.

Amen

Scott Johnson