

**Sermon Title: Worship While Unwrapping the Gifts of Salvation**

**Sermon Text: Romans 16:25-27**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a worshipful God centered mindset of salvation, during the Christmas season.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 reactions related to God provided salvation, during the Christmas season.**

- I. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that **strengthens** the Christian. V.25a
- II. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that **proclaims** Jesus Christ. V.25b
- III. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that unveils God's **mystery**. V.25c-26
- IV. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that empowers **obedience** for nations. V.26b-27

**I. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that **strengthens** the Christian. V.25a**

Paul exhorts the believers to offer praise to the One and Only God who has the power to establish and strengthen those who have come into an eternal relationship with God, through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 1:11** For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established--

The word (establish) *sterizo* means to make fast. In this context especially it refers to being mentally settled, firmly rooted in the truth of the gospel. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

**2 Timothy 3:7** always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Timothy 1:12** For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Paul makes it clear that the Christian is strengthened through the Gospel he has been charged to preach, and that God provide divine and to the messenger of this Gospel, and those who trust in the Gospel.

**II. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that **proclaims** Jesus Christ. V.25b**

Paul's gospel is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 1:11-12** But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. **12** For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The preaching about Jesus Christ is a further definition of the term "my gospel."

There are several statements of this truth found in Paul's writings.

A. We preach Christ crucified.

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24** but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, **24** but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

B. We do not preach ourselves.

**2 Corinthians 4:5-6** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

C. We preach the Word of Christ.

**Romans 10:17** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

D. We preach the blessing that belongs to those who belong to Jesus Christ. (**Romans 3:21-8:39**)

**III. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that unveils God's **mystery**. V.25c-26**

The term mystery (mysterion) in the New Testament refers to something hidden in former times but now made known. Specifically it refers to a part of God's salvation truth that was not revealed, or was only partially revealed in the Old Testament and not fully understood.

The mystery Paul is referring to here, is the most common mysteries of the Old Testament and New Testament, related to God providing salvation for the Gentiles as well as Jews.

A. Old Testament references

1. **Isaiah 53:11** He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.
2. **Jeremiah 31:31-33** "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- **32** "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. **33** "But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.
3. **Ezekiel 11:19** "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,  
**Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."  
**Exodus 19:6** `And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

B. New Testament references

1. **1 Peter 1:10-11** Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, **11** searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.
2. **Ephesians 3:3-9**
3. **Romans 10:11-12; 11:25**
4. **Acts 13:46-47** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** "For so the Lord has commanded us: `I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

C. Roman references

1. Chapter 12:3-8 Paul commends Jews and Gentile believers to serve with their spiritual gifts one another.
2. Chapter 13 Respect for governmental authorities.
3. Chapter 14 Avoid offending one another's consciences.
4. Chapter 15 A reminder of God's gracious provisions of saving grace to both Jew and Gentile.
5. Chapter 16 Paul's greetings to Jews and Gentiles reflects his conviction of the oneness of all in Jesus Christ.

IV. Offer praise to God for the Gospel that empowers obedience for nations. V.26b-27

- A. This is possible because of the wisdom of God.
- B. This is possible because of the sovereignty of God.
- C. This is possible because of the providence of God.
- D. This is possible because of the Son of God.

**Ephesians 3:8-11** To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9** and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; **10** to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, **11** according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,