

Scripture Text

Romans 16:25-27

Context

The Gospel is the main theme of Paul's letter to the Romans, which focuses on explaining the Gospel and drawing out its implications for life. These verses are a doxology, praising God for the Gospel.

Observation and Meaning

1. What attributes of God does Paul highlight in his doxology?
2. Based on the other parts of Romans, how does God strengthen believers with the Gospel?
3. How does the Old Testament ("the prophetic writings") point to Jesus Christ? Can you give examples from different parts of the OT?
4. According to God's command, what is the Gospel meant to bring about among the nations?
5. How is God glorified, based on these verses?

Big Idea

God, who is able to strengthen us through the Gospel, is to be praised. The preaching of Jesus Christ brings about the obedience of faith, resulting in Gospel-shaped lives that glorify God. Gospel centredness entails both Gospel truth and lives transformed by the Gospel.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

The coming of Jesus Christ reveals what has been promised in the Old Testament. All of Scripture is centred on the saving work of God through His Son.

Application

1. What does it mean to be Gospel-centred?
2. How does the Gospel motivate us to give thanks and praise to God?
3. What does it mean for us to read the Bible in a Gospel-centred way?
4. In what ways can we grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Gospel?
5. What does it look like to centre our church and Christian lives on the Gospel?
6. How has the Gospel impacted the way we live? In which areas do we need to grow to further live out the implications of the Gospel?
7. Give examples of how we can encourage one another in the Gospel.

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.