

**Romans 16:25-27**  
**(Psalm 63:1-8; John 1:1-14)**  
**“God’s Glory through the Gospel of Jesus Christ”**

## **Introduction**

We come to the end of perhaps the greatest letter ever written, a letter in which the apostle Paul eloquently describes the utter hopelessness of humanity apart from God’s grace, and then proceeds to describe that grace, God’s great rescue of his people from the consequences of our rebellion against him. But Paul not only tell us how God saves us, he also tells us what should be the consequences of that salvation in lives transformed from self-centered to self-giving, from self-serving to self-sacrificial. Because God has so loved us, Paul calls us to respond by loving one another and by giving ourselves in self-sacrificial love to the world around us.

Now in these final verses, a doxology of praise to God for the gospel of grace, Paul summarizes what should be our goal and our message, our mission and our mission field. Look with me at these four final emphases as we draw this study to a close.

## **Body**

### **1. The church’s goal is God’s glory (16:25&27).**

The doxology begins and ends with an ascription of praise to God and the prayer that the gospel of Christ will bring glory to God. What a profound and fundamental difference this makes when God’s people intentionally make this the ultimate goal of everything they do! It turns our culture’s values upside down. As long as we fall for the lie that we must choose either being satisfied in life, or God being glorified, we fall for this world’s lie. As John Piper has spent his life and ministry pointing out to the church, the truth is that we are most satisfied when God is most glorified in and through us, and God is most glorified when we his children are most satisfied in him.

### **2. The church’s message is Jesus Christ (16:25&26).**

What should we teach? What is our message? Is the church a political action group, pressing either a conservative or a liberal cultural agenda, as so many churches do? Or are we a self-help group, dispensing advice on how to have a more successful marriage, family and career? Or are we, perhaps, an ethical society espousing particular behaviors? In fairness, the Bible does address moral, economic and cultural issues, as well as teaching us about how husbands and wives, parents and children, bosses and workers, should relate to one another.

But those things always follow a clear and compelling declaration of the gospel of grace, which is centered on the life, death and victory of Jesus Christ, and on the continuing presence of his Spirit in the lives of his people. Everything rests upon this and flows from this. This is our unique message to the world, and – like Paul – we should never be “ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes” (1:16). Everything else that we believe and teach rests upon this, and without this, in the end the rest does not matter at all.

### **3. The church’s mission is bringing about the obedience of faith (16:26).**

The mission of the church is not merely to declare the gospel, nor is it merely to get people to profess to believe the gospel. It is “to bring about the obedience of faith.” The gospel is not merely for us, but is to be in us, by God’s Spirit. Our lives are to give people who do not yet know the Lord a reason to believe the truth of the gospel. And we are to encourage one another along the way, demonstrating, tasting and seeing the love of the Lord for us by the character of our love for one another.

### **4. The church’s mission field includes all nations (16:26).**

And this mission is not just for us and for those whom we know and love. It is not merely for our neighbors and our community. We are to be involved in proclaiming the gospel, in seeking the obedience of faith, in extending the transforming power of God’s kingdom, “to all nations.” This is our mandate, and the consummation of human history awaits its fulfillment. If you care about the brokenness of the world, about poverty and disease, injustice and oppression, then without the transforming power of the gospel, every good thing we do at best treats symptoms without dealing with the disease itself. So we must carry the good news of God’s love in Christ to the nations.

## **Conclusion**

Here, then, we have in summary all that Paul has taught us in this letter, now lifted up in a final song of praise and thanks to God. Here Paul gives us an outline of the first and final things we must remember if we would live by the gospel of grace: Our goal is God’s glory. Our message is Jesus Christ. Our mission is to bring about the obedience of faith. And our mission field is the whole world, every tribe and language and people group and nation.

May our great God and King delight in us as we encourage one another faithfully to pursue such a glorious vision!