

A GREAT MYSTERY REVEALED

Thursday, December 21, 2017

Romans 16:25-27; “Praise God! He can make you strong by means of my good news, which is the message about Jesus Christ. For ages and ages this message was kept secret, but now at last it has been told. The eternal God commanded his prophets to write about the good news, so that all nations would obey and have faith. And now, because of Jesus Christ, we can praise the only wise God forever! Amen.” (Contemporary English Version)

Do you enjoy mystery stories? I really do! When I was younger, I loved the Columbo series on TV and now I love reading the mystery stories of authors such as Michael Connelly, Sue Grafton and John Grisham. So if you too are a mystery fan, you may be intrigued by today’s Scripture passage.

These ending verses of Romans 16 are a prayer of praise to God. Paul says up until now there has been a mystery surrounding the revelation of God. But through the birth of Jesus, God’s glory and grace have been revealed in a world-changing way. Paul reminds the Christians in Rome (and us) to live as Christians and to spread the Gospel to the whole world. While we are celebrating the Advent of our Savior, Jesus is also the reason for the season. We celebrate Advent to remind us that the mystery Paul spoke of in this passage is no longer a mystery or a secret.

Romans 16:25-27 is a song that praises God for God’s work through Jesus. The mystery of salvation was revealed on that first Christmas long ago. The angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary was the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret throughout history. But as believers in Christ we are in on the secret! The mystery is the Good News! Jesus came into the world, died for our sins, was raised to life and he will return! God’s plan for our salvation has unfolded in full splendor! Praise God!

Prayer: Thank you Lord for revealing Your great mystery to us and for sending to us so great a gift as Your son Jesus. As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ arrival, we will remember to give our praise and honor to Him. Amen.

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