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Week 42 – Keepin’ it Simple

Notes on Romans 16:17-27

Three Huge Take-Aways from Romans:

1. It is God who _____ you in the Gospel (vs. 25a)
“Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ...”
2. It is God who _____ you with the Gospel (vs. 25b-26a)
“...in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God...”
3. It is God who _____ all to receive the Gospel by faith (vs. 26b)
“...so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith...” (Literally “...the obedience of faith...”)

The Big Idea:

The Gospel reinstates our Edenic relationship with God, removing isolation and restoring intimacy. God’s critical theory of grace is one hundred percent true. Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace! (Romans 6:14)

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In wrapping up our 42-part journey through Romans, share about what you enjoyed most about the series. Were there particular verses or sections that challenged you to re-think your faith? Where does Romans rank among the books of the Bible in your opinion? Explain...

Ponderings:

2. Having studied Romans, why is the Gospel the only real answer to the problem of sin in the world? Try to avoid "Sunday School" answers and really think about this issue. How would you explain this to a person who resists the Gospel for fear that "religion only fuels the world's problems?"
3. That God, through the Gospel, restores your "wisdom concerning goodness and your innocence concerning evil" (Rom. 16:19) goes beyond outward adherence to a list of rules. It depicts an entirely different quality of life! How does this relate to our being restored to that original "Edenic" state of existence for which God created us?

How does the promise that God will "crush Satan underneath your feet" echo back to the promise of Genesis 3:15?

4. Of the three take-aways from Romans 16:25-26, which is the most impactful for you right now and why?
 - That God *establishes* you in the Gospel (It is not only for eternal life, but daily life...)
 - That God *enlightens* you with the Gospel (It is the power of God for deliverance both on earth and for eternity)
 - That God *encourages* all to receive the Gospel by faith (God Himself is the greatest and most powerful Preacher of the gospel. He wants all to receive Christ by faith!)

Promptings:

5. How has the Gospel of Jesus Christ specifically impacted areas of your thinking and living? Try to give specific examples of how Jesus continues to transform you outwardly into greater conformity with your new identity. Share as boldly and honestly as you feel comfortable. Then close in a time of prayer and thanksgiving, specifically focusing on your gratefulness for the Gospel...