

Introduction

1. This last section is generally referred to as a doxology (doxa meaning glory and logia meaning saying or writing)—thus it's a written praise
2. The structure is a bit awkward:
 - a. It's not a complete sentence in Greek
 - b. The main point starts with the first few words and then ends with the last few words, but is separated by additional supporting thoughts in between
3. Paul's main point is that God deserves glory as a result of the Gospel and this is seen better if we remove the intermediate/supporting phrases: **"Now to Him who is able to establish you...to the only wise God...be glory forever. Amen."**
4. Let's dive into these three phrases and see what we can learn

A. **"Now to Him who is able to establish you..."** (25-26)

1. The Greek word στερίζω (sterizo) can refer to establishing something or strengthening something in the sense of making it stronger, more firm, unchangeable
 - a. Either of these nuances are possible here and English translations are split:
 - 1) NAU, NIV, NKJV, KJV: **"establish"**
 - 2) NET, ESV, CSB: **"strengthen"**
 - b. I favor **"establish"** because I believe Paul is referring to our standing or position in Christ and the fact that God is the One Who is not only able to secure our salvation, but the one Who does it:
 - 1) Listen to what he wrote to the Corinthians (**READ 1 Corinthians 1:2-9**)
 - a) We have been **"sanctified in Christ Jesus"** (2)—this means that we have been set apart for God's holy purpose
 - b) We are now **"saints"** or holy ones (2)
 - c) **"grace"** and **"peace"** are now ours (3)
 - d) We lack in nothing because of the testimony concerning Christ that has been confirmed in us (4-7)
 - e) So, we can now wait expectantly for the revelation of Christ at his return because he will **"confirm [us] to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (7-8)
 - f) And we know this because **"God is faithful"** (9)
 - 2) Paul reminded the Romans of the security they have in Christ (**READ Romans 8:28-39**)
 - a) Good awaits us because we have been **"called according to [God's] purpose"** (28)
 - b) We have been foreknown, predestined, called, justified and will be glorified (29-30)
 - c) Because God is for us, ultimately nothing can be against us (31)
 - d) His Son, Jesus Christ, now intercedes for us and, therefore, nothing can separate us from God's love (34-39)

2. The means through which God has established us is the Gospel (25): "**according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past,**"
 - a. Like he does elsewhere, Paul refers to the Gospel as a mystery:
 - 1) It was "**kept secret for long ages past**" meaning that the Gospel wasn't fully understood by those who lived prior to the coming of Jesus Christ
 - 2) It was promised in the OT (Romans 1:1-4; Romans 3:21; Titus 1:1-2) but not fully revealed until the "proper time" (Titus 1:3)
 - 3) Part of what made the Gospel a mystery was God's plan to include the Gentiles in His redemptive plan (**READ Ephesians 3:1-10**)
 - b. However, this mystery was finally made known in order to bring about faith in all nations (29): "**but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;**"
 - 1) By the Scriptures (OT and NT)
 - 2) According to the commandment of God
 - 3) And to "**all the nations**"
3. So Paul's reference to God as the One who establishes us is a reflection of the position we now have in Christ and the security that comes along with it—God is a God who has not only saved us through the Gospel but now keeps us safe and secure in Jesus Christ

B. "To the only wise God..." (27a)

1. This is the only place in the Bible where God is referred to with this phrase, "**the only wise God**"
2. However, the Gospel as a reflection of God's wisdom is highlighted many times:
 - a. When Paul finished describing God's plan to include the Gentiles in his redemptive plan for Israel, he writes, "**Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!**" (Romans 11:33)
 - b. In 1 Corinthians 1:24 Paul again refers to God's wisdom in His redemptive plan (1 Corinthians 1:23-24): "**but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**"
 - c. Paul stated in Ephesians 3:10 that preaching of the Gospel by the Church reveals the "**manifold (many sided or multifaceted) wisdom of God**" to the "**rulers and authorities in the heavenly places**"
3. What is it about the Gospel that makes it a reflection or revelation of God's wisdom?
 - a. **The simplicity**—every other world religion has its complex systems, requirements, regulations, etc. but the Gospel is truly simply (John 3:16): "**For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**"
 - b. **The means**—because God is perfect and holy, salvation could never be earned by sinners, so God came up with a plan that doesn't require work. : (Ephesians 2:8-9): "**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;**"
 - c. **The completeness**—granting eternal life wasn't enough because it would have left us in a fallen state, so God came up with a plan that transformed our very nature (2 Peter 1:4):

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

- d. **The security**—and above all these things, our salvation is guaranteed because it is based on God's faithfulness not our abilities (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24): **"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass."**
4. One of the things I recognize now more than ever—after walking with God for over 30 years—is how absolutely ingenious the Gospel is:
 - a. One of the things that convinces me of the truth of the Gospel is its uniqueness
 - b. There is a reason why the Gospel is so radically different than every other means of salvation in all the world's religions
 - c. It's based on the wisdom of God, where all the others are based on the wisdom of man (which is why they are all based on works)
 - d. I am convinced that there is no way that God's redemptive plan as laid out in the pages of the Old and New testament could have originated in the imagination of man because it defies logic—**every other attempt by man to come up with a means to salvation (e.g. another religion) has resulted in the same basic plan—earning his way to salvation based on his own merits**
 - e. Only one thing makes sense to me—only God could have come up with such a plan!

C. **"through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen" (27b)**

1. We now get to the main point of Paul's doxology: because God has established us and because He is the only wise God, He is due eternal glory through Jesus Christ
2. This is a fairly common phrase in the NT—did you ever wonder exactly what it means?
 - a. Romans 11:36: **"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."**
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:17: **"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."**
 - c. Philippians 4:20: **"Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen."**
 - d. 2 Peter 3:18: **"To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."**
 - e. Galatians 1:5: **"to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen."**
 - f. Ephesians 3:21: **"to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."**
 - g. 2 Timothy 4:18: **"to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."**
 - h. Jud 1:25: **"to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."**
3. The Greek word δόξα (doxa) has a variety of meanings or usages in the NT including things like greatness, splendor, power or might, praise, honor, respect
4. In this context, it carries the idea of honor and praise—in other words, God deserves our honor and praise
 - a. Notice that it is **"through Jesus Christ"** that God receives honor and praise
 - b. In other words, it is through the Gospel—the work accomplished through God's Son, Jesus—that God is praised and glorified

- c. This is exactly what Paul did in **Romans 11:33-36 (READ)** right after he finished laying out God's redemptive plan for both Jews and Gentiles
- d. He does it here again at the end of the letter—and in many of his letters (cited above)

Conclusion

1. As we wrap up our study of Romans, I want to read one last passage that I believe highlights what God has done for us in the Gospel
2. If it doesn't give us something to praise Him for, nothing will
3. Ephesians 1:3-12