

Sermon Growth Guide

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TO GOD BE THE GLORY | Romans 16:25-27

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Key Verse: Romans 16:27: to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Big Idea: The Epistle to the Romans—Paul's great exposition of the gospel message—ends in praise. This is the chief end of God's saving work.

Foundations

We've made it! We've reached the end of Romans. We've seen a grand story unfold during our study this past year as Paul has moved from 1) God's good creation to 2) the mess that we've landed ourselves in through sin to 3) the hope of salvation by God's grace through faith in Jesus to 4) the practical outworking of grace in our lives exemplified through love for God and others. Take a moment to reflect on the journey. What was a challenge for you? What was a moment of insight or joy for you?

And now at the end, we reach an appropriate climax and the purpose of it all—worship. Paul closes this magnificent letter in praise. Ultimately, this is what it is all about—giving glory to God. As the Westminster Shorter Catechism states, "What is the chief end of man? Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

Romans explains the incredible story of what God has done to redeem sinners and reconcile the world back to Himself, and it is through this self-giving love for His creation that God is most glorified. In Jesus, God's glory is manifested through His self-divestment of heavenly glory and His self-humiliation on the cross. It is through His eternal decision to be God-in-Christ-for-the-sake-of-others that God makes inglorious beings partakers of His eternal glory. In short, the highest praise we can ascribe to God is that He is our Savior. This is a gift, and the only proper response to a gift is one of gratitude.

Understanding God's Word

In Romans 1:5 and 16:26, notice that Paul states that his purpose in writing is not to bring about faith, but the *obedience* that comes from faith. Why is obedience so important that Paul would single it out at both the very beginning and the very end of his magnum opus written to the Romans? Is there a connection between obedience and glorifying God?

Applying God's Word

Romans is an incredibly deep and rich book, both in its theology and in its guidance for practical living. What are one or two of your biggest takeaways from studying Romans over the past year? What is one concrete action item that you can implement in the next week to live out what you learned? Share these with a friend.

Witnessing God's Word

The word "gospel" means "good news." So what is "the good news"? How would you explain it to a friend who needs to hear about Jesus using the book of Romans as a roadmap?