



For Further Study



Read and meditate on the passage below:

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith — ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.
(Romans 16:25-27)

The above passage comes from Paul's letter to the church in Rome. In the recorded sermon for this week, we examined the opening verses of this letter; these are the closing verses of the epistle that Paul sent by Phoebe to the house church(es) in the capital city of the Roman Empire.

Note that when Paul refers to the “gospel” here, he speaks of it personally (my gospel). Each of us has a gospel story (the gospel according to me). That story includes the message about Jesus, the “revelation” of long ago and what happened to him when he was on earth, as well as the revealing of Jesus to each of us through scripture, experience, and living in community with others.

Paul is very interested in Gentile inclusion, which means that he believes strongly in a gospel that is for everyone--no exceptions. The gospel is built on the faithfulness of Jesus, our Teacher (Rabbi), which we follow as his disciples (pupils). We live this out as we walk with Jesus, strive to become more like Jesus, and bring glory to God by treating others like Jesus treats us all--with acceptance, love and compassion.



REFLECTION:

What goals should I set for 2026 about being more like Jesus?

PRACTICE:

Consider something that you can do this year to grow in faith.