

ROMANS

THE CHRISTIAN'S CONSTITUTION

STUDY FORTY-FOUR

To God, Alone, Be the Glory Forever

Romans 16:25–27

May I remind all of us that if a church has one challenge over all others, it is making certain that the living God receives all the glory, all the glory. And to God alone, all the glory.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

WHAT an incredible journey!

In the opening chapters of Romans, we began with a clear view of the depravity of humanity, which we called “Sinorama in Panorama.” Humanity has gone astray! But the grace of God showed up, making “us right in His sight” (Romans 3:24)—not as a reward for our good works but as a gift by faith in Jesus Christ.

People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. (3:25)

What good news! We are made right with God by faith alone, in Christ alone, because of His grace alone. In Paul’s life and ministry, God’s grace shone like a sparkling diamond against a dark velvet backdrop of sin. By this grace, God gave us a new nature when the Holy Spirit took up residence within us “to fill our hearts with his love” (5:5).

Although the old nature is still present in us, “sin is no longer [our] master” (6:14). In Romans 8, we learned the liberating truth that “the life-giving Spirit has freed [us] from the power of sin” (8:2). Through His death and resurrection, Christ has made it possible to “put to death the deeds of [our] sinful nature” as we walk yielded to the Holy Spirit.

As Paul explained, God’s plan of redemption was rooted in His promises to Israel—which prompted the question. By extending grace to gentiles, has God forgotten His people? *Absolutely not*, Paul declared in Romans 9–11, concluding his argument on a resounding note of praise to God for His sovereign plan:

Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! (11:33)



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Then, in chapter 12, Paul challenged us to be transformed as we make worship a way of life. His grace freed us to “love one another” (Romans 13:8). Love regulates our liberty (Romans 14–15). Then, in Romans 16, Paul modeled love in his gracious greetings to his friends in ministry, inspiring us to follow his lead and become *people of grace*.

In this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study, we come to the end of our great adventure. Each step of the way, Paul has showcased the grandeur of our triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In his final benediction, we’ll take a deep breath and join Paul in giving a standing ovation to the invisible and invincible God—the infallible Guide of our journey!



PREPARE YOUR HEART

All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen. (Romans 16:27)

Turn your attention toward God. Recall the ways your heart opened when you observed God’s truth, when the meaning of a word challenged you to trust Him, or when an application stirred your faith to action. So, praise Him!



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In Romans 16, Paul greeted the women and men who were his friends living in Rome (Romans 16:1–16). He encouraged them to guard God’s vineyard against wild boars, those menaces who divide the church and hinder people’s faith (16:17–20). He sent greetings from believers in Corinth (16:21–24). And now comes the benediction, Paul’s final declaration of praise.

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Romans 16:25–27



Observation: Paul’s Final Praise to God

Observe *Romans 16:25–27* by reading it more than once, noting who the subject is, what Paul says about Him, and the main theme from Romans that Paul summarizes in a concise concluding statement.¹ Now, let’s dive into the verses phrase by phrase.

To God, ALONE—Romans 16:25–26

In *Romans 16:25*, Paul sets in place four facts about God as a foundation for the Roman believers’ faith. Write down these four facts.

16:25	
16:25	
16:25–26	
16:25–26	

Be the GLORY—Romans 16:27

How did Paul describe God in *Romans 16:27*? What did he ascribe to Him? Through whom did Paul give God glory?

FOREVER—Romans 16:27

In his final declaration of praise, Paul states that “all glory” goes to God . . . *forever*. How does Paul’s emphasis on eternity influence your worship today?

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Romans 16:25–27

I am so grateful that in the closing doxology of the letter, people are set aside, doctrines related to the Christian life are pushed away, and the attention turns toward God and only to Him. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Glory to the Awesome God!

Paul ascribed glory to God, who is able to “establish” believers (Romans 16:25 NASB). Discover the meaning of the Greek verb *sterizo*, “establish,” at billmounce.com. Then look at [16:25](#) in the NET, MSG, and J. B. Phillips translations. What does it mean that God is the source of your stability?

This is a reference to the invisible, albeit invincible, power of God supporting us. The original word has in mind a prop, as in a support, and the prefix on the original word puts it inside of us. God stabilizes you and holds you steadfast. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul exalted God as the revealer of the gospel, which for a long time was a “mystery” (16:25 NASB). How was the gospel a mystery?

This is a word like secret—something that is going on behind the scenes, but you don’t know about it. And once the word is out, people know about it. All through time, the gospel has been there, but now it is revealed. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Paul concluded that “all glory [goes] to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever” (16:27). What does it mean to glory in God *alone* and not in anything or anyone else?

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Romans 16:25–27

In the language of common Greek, doxa is the word for glory. Paul pauses at this moment, as if to lift his hands and to look up and say, “Now to Him be all the glory.” He reminds us that God is awesome. He is awesome in His works. Will you never forget what you’ve learned in these lessons in Romans? Only God is awesome. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Our Awesome God!

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture exalts God. God’s people often gave Him praise for how He sustained them during threatening situations. Compare [Psalm 3](#); [Romans 16:25–27](#); and [2 Corinthians 1:8–11](#). Why should we praise God even when we stand under attack or are under fire? How does walking with integrity in a godless world glorify God?

When we face temptation and are tempted to move in the wrong direction, and we say no and stay pure, that’s the work of God within us. When we’re given courage to stand under attack from those who don’t know us and don’t realize our motives are pure, that is the work of God. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Praise is due to our God who is the revealer and proclaimer of the gospel to all the nations. How do passages such as [John 3:16–18](#); [14:1–6](#); [Acts 4:12](#); [Romans 3:22–25](#); [16:25–27](#); and [1 Timothy 2:3–6](#) plainly teach the only way to heaven is Jesus Christ? Why is this message central to our faith? Why do some react against it?

In our pluralistic world, we’re offered all kinds of gods. They tell us that because a person is sincere, it doesn’t matter whom he or she believes in. No, you’ll wind up in the other place, and you’ll wonder, How in the world did I not make it to heaven? Because you didn’t sincerely believe in the only way. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Read *Psalm 95:2–3; 96:4–5; 97:9; Isaiah 43:11; 44:6, 8; 45:5–6*. How do all these passages emphasize that glory is due to God for His uniqueness? In what ways does God stand alone without rival? What can we learn from comparing these passages to *Romans 16:27*, specifically how Jesus gave us access to God's throne?

There is no other supreme being. No other creator. No one who is worthy of worship. So, whether we stand or bow, dance or make a joyful sound, what matters most is that all the glory goes to God!



Application: Give God All the Glory!

Application, the last step of the *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, helps us welcome God's invisible hand to guide our lives according to His Word to His purpose for His glory.¹

Write down one or two extremely difficult situations that you or someone you know faced and how God miraculously carried you or the other person through them. Take a moment to thank the Lord from your heart for His stability in the storm.

Let's learn. Let's teach ourselves to say frequently, "Thank You, Lord. You get all the praise, Lord. Thank You for watching over me . . . Lord, thank You."
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Center stage in Romans is the gospel—the good news that people can be made right with God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. From his opening lines, Paul declared that God has given him the privilege and authority as an apostle “to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name” (Romans 1:5). How has the Holy Spirit nudged you to communicate this good news wherever you go?

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Romans 16:25–27

You're a communicator of the good news—that makes you a preacher. You say, "Well, I've never been sent." You are sent the moment you believe. You are ignited with enough of the Spirit of God to send you to wherever you may go to give the good news of Christ. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Considering who God is and what He has done, craft your own statement of praise or doxology as your final benediction for your study of Romans.

As you take the next steps in your journey of faith, remember to give God the glory each day. Come back to this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study on Romans anytime to rediscover timeless truths that will transform your life.



A FINAL PRAYER

Close your study by praying this passage from Romans 16:25, 27 (NASB):

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ . . . to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2025 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Mirlenda Noëlliste in collaboration with Aaron Massey, senior vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, and Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2008, 2025 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

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Study 44 • Page 7

