

**THE MISSION OF GOD**  
**Guard the Gospel**  
**Romans 16:17-27**

**Overview:**

- I. The Righteousness of God (1:1-3:20)**
- II. The Grace of God (3:21-8:39)**
  - A. Justifying grace (3:21-5:21)**
  - B. Transforming grace (6:1-8:39)**
- III. The Plan of God (9:1-11:26)**
- IV. The Will of God (12:1-15:13)**
- V. The Mission of God (15:14-6:27)**

**Big Idea:** Be equipped with five truths that will enable you to guard the gospel.

*To guard the gospel you must . . .*

**1. Be vigilant 16:17-18)**

a. Watch out for those who are divisive (v. 17a).

17a I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions

b. Avoid those who teach false doctrine (v. 17b).

and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

**2 Timothy 2:23**

23 Have nothing to do (avoid) with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

▪ The false teachers were . . .

○ Self-serving (v. 18a)

18a For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites,

**Philippians 3:19**

19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

○ Smooth-talking (v. 18b)

18 and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

**2. Be discerning (16:19)**

19 For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you,

**Romans 1:8**

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

a. Wise in reference to good (v. 19b).

but I want you to be wise as to what is good

b. Innocent in reference to evil (v. 19c).

and innocent as to what is evil.

**1 Corinthians 14:20**

20 Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

▪ Three tests:

(1) Biblical test – Does it agree with Scripture?

- (2) Christological test – Does it glorify Christ?
- (3) Moral test – Does it promote righteousness?

### 3. Be encouraged (16:20)

- a. God is fighting for you (v. 20a).

20a The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

**Genesis 3:15**

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

- b. The grace of Christ is with you (v.20b).

20b The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

### 4. Be connected (16:21-23)

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

22 I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

23 Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

### 5. Be strong (16:25-27)

- a. God is able (v. 25a)

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,

- This is not an exhortation but a promise.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

**Ephesians 3:20–21**

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen

- Why do we need God to strengthen us?

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

- By what means does God strengthen us?

according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,

- The gospel saves us (3:21-5:21), changes us (6:1-8:30), and keeps us (8:31-39; 16:25).

The gospel is not only the entry point into the Christian life; it is also the way we continue in, grow in and enjoy life with Christ. **Tim Keller**

- God uses us to strengthen others (Acts 18:23; Rom. 1:11; 1 Thess. 3:2).

**Romans 1:11–12**

11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— 12 that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.

- God glorifies himself by making you strong with His gospel.

- b. God is sovereign (vv. 25b-26).

according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

- c. God is wise (v. 27).

27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

### **Benediction**

**Jude 24–25**

24 Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 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.