

# SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 35: The Final Word: Strengthened by the Gospel

**BIG Idea:** The same gospel that saves us also strengthens us—uniting our hearts, securing our victory, and directing our praise to God.

**Application:** Be alert, be anchored, and be awed by the God of grace—guarding unity, standing firm in faith, and living strengthened by the gospel every day.

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***Join us as we read the Bible together in 2025.***

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## I. Stay Alert – Guard the Unity of the Church (vv. 17-18)

**Romans 16:17-18 (NLT) *Paul's Final Instructions***

<sup>17</sup> And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. <sup>18</sup> Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

**Stay alert and guard the unity of the church.**

**Acts 20:28-31 (NLT)**

<sup>28</sup> So guard yourselves and God's people. Feed and shepherd God's flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. <sup>29</sup> I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following. <sup>31</sup> Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

**A. Paul warns us that unity is fragile.**

**B. Discernment is an act of love.**

**Ephesians 4:1-6 (NLT) *Unity in the Body***

<sup>1</sup> Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. <sup>2</sup> Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. <sup>4</sup> For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.

<sup>5</sup> There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all,  
who is over all, in all, and living through all.

Unity is worth guarding because the gospel is worth protecting.

## II. Stand Firm – Trust the God Who Wins the Battle (vv. 19-20)

Romans 16:19-20 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. <sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

What a powerful reminder from Paul.

Stand firm and trust the God who wins the battle!

A. God's victory is certain.

B. Peace and victory are not opposites.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

The enemy may bruise your heel, but God will crush his head.

1 Peter 5:8-10 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

<sup>10</sup> In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

## II. Stay Encouraged – The Gospel That Strengthens Us All (vv. 25-27)

Romans 16:21-27 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup> Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

<sup>22</sup> I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

<sup>23</sup> Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.

<sup>25</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. <sup>26</sup> But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded,

this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. <sup>27</sup> All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

**A. The gospel reveals God's mystery.**

**B. Stay encouraged in the gospel that strengthens us all.**

**Romans 1:16-17 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

**The gospel that saved you is the gospel that sustains you.**

**Jude 24-25 (NLT)**

<sup>24</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. <sup>25</sup> All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.