

## **To God Alone Wise**

*Rom 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

Paul now gives the doxology at the close of his benediction. To God who alone is wise, be glory forever through Jesus Christ. Of all the attributes of God he chooses simply this one, the wisdom of God. Paul in his letter to the church at Corinth refers to Christ as the "wisdom of God" and then informs us that Christ Jesus "became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption." (1 Cor 1:24, 30) Also, in his letter to the Ephesians we learn that "the manifold wisdom of God" is made know to us "according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." Eph 3:10-12

I would remind you that when Paul came to the close of the first part of this book of Romans, as he closed his discourse on the greatness of God's salvation toward sinful men, he seems to be overcome with the greatness of God's wisdom in providing for us this glorious salvation and proclaims, "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*" Rom 11:31

Truly dear ones we catch a glimpse of the depth of the wisdom of God as we consider how He provided for sinful man a salvation that is both just and merciful.

For although man knew God; he would not glorify Him as God, and being unthankful he willfully acted out an animosity against God choosing to serve the creature rather than his Creator. Yet God determined, in love, to redeem a certain number unto Himself. He could not be just and simply overlook our sins. For God had made it most plain to Moses at the giving of the law. When the Lord proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty." Ex 34:6-7

And this raises the question, how could God provide a means of forgiveness without clearing the guilty? It is here that the attribute of "wisdom" is brought into view, because in a most amazing way the wisdom of God's plan of salvation is displayed in the person and work of Jesus the Christ. Oh how wonderfully the "wisdom" of God is clearly revealed in devising the plan; for the very one against whom man had rebelled, the Judge Himself, before whom we stand guilty, became man, and as very God and very man took upon Himself the penalty of our sin. For the Lord laid upon Him the iniquity of us all, and He was bruised for our transgression and paid in full the price of redemption, suffering death in our place, even the death of the cross, which fully satisfied for all our sins in a manner that met the justice of God and provided a mercy that could grant salvation full and free to sinful man. "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*"

Little wonder he closes with a doxology that proclaims, to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen We will consider this under three well laid out parts, 1. God who alone is wise. 2. Be glory to God, and 3. Through Jesus Christ.

### A. The only wise God, or God who **alone is wise**.

#### 1. God alone is wise.

- a. In the book of Job we read that He charges his angels with folly (Job 4:18)
- b. And He calls the wisdom of men but foolishness. - For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. (1 Cor 3:19)

#### 2. Indeed God's wisdom is so clearly revealed in the whole of creation.

- a. With a display of perfect logic, reason, and mathematics the heavens declare the glory of God.
- b. In the manifold works of God about us we see His wisdom.

*Ps 104:22 O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all.*

- c. Paul in the opening of his letter to the church at Rome has already pointed out how creation proclaims God's being and wisdom.

*Rom 1:20-21 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

3. And certainly we cannot read of God's salvation without proclaiming - God who alone is wise.
  - a. A plan that provides forgiveness of sin and while perfect justice is met.
  - b. A plan where perfect righteousness for sinful man is provided.
  - c. And a plan wherein love and mercy beyond comprehension is seen.
  - d. Such wisdom - is beyond our ability to conceive.
4. Without question we see God wisdom in great contrast to the foolishness of man.
  - a. When man chooses to serve the creature rather than the Creator.
  - b. Or when man devises a science that says all things came from nothing and by time and chance became the elements of great and magnificent design.
  - c. Or how man seeks a salvation of works or self inflicted suffering or a cleansing by suffering in a place called purgatory in the very face of a most perfect salvation.

B. And now with full awareness of this wisdom he desires that all the praise and honor should be to God. - To this God who alone is wise **be glory**

1. The whole makeup of God's plan of salvation is to promote his glory.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, **lest anyone should boast.**

Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

2. Thus the "**obligation**" on all who are benefitted by it is to **give him praise.**
3. Just thinking upon what He has done for you should fill your heart with an attitude of praise and thankfulness.
  - a. God became man and died in your place.
  - b. God became man and provided for you a perfect righteousness.
  - c. And how best could you show your thankful praise than by a response of humble submission of loving devotion and service to a most glorious Savior.

C. And the last part of his doxology - through Jesus Christ

1. For how shall you approach this God of such wisdom, holiness, power, justice, goodness and truth? -
2. You must have holiness without which no man can see the Lord.
  - a. Problem? All you righteousnesses are but filthy rags.
  - b. You have been clothed in the garment of His righteousness.
3. The Old Testament tabernacle worship clearly forbids entrance into the Most Holy Place of God's presence without His provision.
  - a. But what the law could not do, Jesus death provided a renting of the veil.
  - b. Jesus Himself has provided for us an entrance into the most holy place, the throne room of heaven itself.

*Heb 10:19-20 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.*

CONCLUSION: And how long shall we glorify God.

Forever and ever

For of His kingdom there shall be no end.

*Rev 22:3-5 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

*Rom 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*