



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 16:1-27
- John 4:1-42
- I & II Timothy

SPIRIT AND TRUTH

- Banner of Spirit and Truth
- The Spirit Testifies
- The Truth Verifies

SEED:

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit**, and **those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**” John 4:23-24

NKJV

“Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” II Corinthians 3:17 NKJV

“Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.” I John 4:1 NKJV

FRUIT:

“Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and avoid them.” Romans 16:17 NKJV

“Jesus answered them and said, **“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, **he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God** or whether I speak on My own authority.” John 7:16-17 NKJV

“Now to Him who is **able to establish you** according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures** made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—” Romans 16:25-26 NKJV

“However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;** for He **will not speak on His own authority,** but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13 NKJV

“I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children **walk in truth.**” III John 1:4 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

It would be prudent to recall what was on Paul's heart just prior in this letter. "Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. Every commandment can be summed up in this word, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. Embrace those who are weak in the faith, and don't confuse them with controversies over things they don't yet understand. Instead, pursue things which bring peace and which edify others."

There is nothing more dangerous to new believers who have recently embraced Christ in the Spirit, but still only have a rudimentary understanding of good doctrine, than leaders and teachers who cause a rift between God's children with heretical doctrines. The most dangerous form of such heresies are the attractive ones that make people feel good. Who doesn't want to believe that once you become a Christian it's all sunshine and rainbows? "It's all going to be easy from now on, and you don't really need to do much but sit back and enjoy the ride. You are good just like you are; God loves you and that is why He chose you. He chose you in your current condition and He is perfectly fine with you staying that way. Change is difficult and God does not want to make your life difficult. Christ took care of everything on

the cross, your eternity; all your sins, past, present and future; and He sympathizes with your weakness and won't ever hold you accountable for your poor lifestyle choices—because you're a Christian now, and those future sins are forgiven in advance! It's smooth sailing from here to eternity!" Any new uneducated baby Christian would be tempted to believe this Christian-lite gospel, and could become easily offended by any fellow believer who does not share faith in the same flattering message.

If life as a Christian were that simple... Unfortunately, other than the truth that when you've been born-again your eternity is secure, all the other stuff is complete bunk. The feel-good-tickle-my-ears gospel is very attractive to those who have not yet been disciplined. But, the best way to identify the fraudsters who have no interest in serving the Lord, is to recognize those who bring that message. They are only in it for their own lustful benefits. Mature Christians, who have learned better, would never fall for it.

That is why doctrine matters—truth matters. The truth verifies the testimony! Good theology and good prophecy is paramount and cannot be ignored; they cannot give way to any soft on truth version of the gospel. In reality there are two overarching gospel messages; one cost Christ everything and cost you nothing; that's the Gospel of Salvation. The other is not free; it's the Gospel of the Kingdom and it will cost you everything, because that is the gospel of

becoming like Christ. Truth matters and truth is reality. You should know the truth, because it's the truth that will set you free.

It's an amazing compliment; your obedience has become known to all. And yet obedience as an idea is relative. To whom or what are you being obedient? Truth matters here, as obedience to the truth is one of the protections against the Devil, the father of lies. The truth empowers God's people. That is how grace operates. And that is why the bookends of Romans are famous faith and radical obedience. We have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith. Paul thanks God that the faith of his recipients is spoken of throughout the whole world. Their obedience to the faith has become known to all. What should be the fruit of this Grace-Empowered-Faith-Based-Obedience to God? Be wise in what is good and simple concerning evil.

To distinguish good and evil, as the writer of Hebrews so eloquently reveals, you must be a grown-up in the faith, a mature adult, not a simple, uneducated, un-disciplined convert. "Solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Paul returns again to making important acknowledgments, this time, instead of to whom he is writing, now he names those who are with him. He includes some fellow workers and even permits Tertius his scribe to identify himself, the man who is taking dictation

from Paul and actually writing the words of this letter. Paul makes special mention of Gaius, the man who seems to be a central figure in the activity of the Church in Corinth, from where the letter to Rome was written. Grace to all is Paul's heart.

Of all the names mentioned, it would be useful to highlight one, Timothy, because of the emphasis on doctrine in this passage, and how extensively Paul wrote to Timothy on this subject. Paul says in Romans, "Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned." That is the same sentiment for which Paul addressed Timothy when he wrote his first letter to him, after leaving him behind in Ephesus to shepherd the church body Paul had established there. It was even an important topic in his second letter to Timothy years later—incidentally Paul's final recorded words before his execution. He urged Timothy to come against any false doctrine, especially the ones that cause disputes and confusion as mentioned above. Be sure the truth you preach edifies those in the faith. Guard those who are susceptible to the false teachers who invest in idle talk, and yet don't even understand what they are saying, nor the things which they claim they strongly believe. As time passes these type of teachers will become more common, further influenced by deceiving spirits as they spread the doctrines of demons. These men will be lovers of themselves and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. They will strut around

representing their own version of godliness, but denying the true origin of its power. They will act like they are always learning, but they will never be able to come to the knowledge of the truth. A good minister teaches good doctrine, doctrine which accords with true godliness, rather than an obsession with disputes and arguments, the wranglings of men with corrupt minds, who are destitute of the truth and suppose that godliness is a means of personal gain.

Timothy was urged to avoid the types of profane and idle babblings and contradictions that are falsely attributed to divine knowledge, and to avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, so that they may come to know the truth. Remember, the truth verifies the testimony and protects God's people. It can help those in opposition come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil. This is precisely what Paul is saying here in Romans, "And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet."

Paul commended Timothy for following good doctrine and for being a consistent example to the flock; he lived a life congruent with the doctrine he preached. Again, as time passes, evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being

deceived. However, Timothy was disciplined to continue in the things he was taught as a child from the Holy Scriptures, and affirmed by Paul as his spiritual father. What he learned was profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God would be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. Finally, Paul not only admonished Timothy to practice the things he had learned, but to then commit them to other faithful men who would be inspired to both practice them and be able to teach others to also live a godly life.

In his letter to the Galatians Paul rebuked those who wanted to pervert the gospel by turning away from God's grace, preaching a sort of different gospel, one in which man could contribute to the cause of his own salvation. It was the doctrine being espoused by those who zealously courted un-disciplined Christians in order to convince them that it takes something more than God's grace to be right with God. These false teachers wished to compel untrained Christians to allow them to help them achieve the coveted status of saved. It was all just to convince uneducated believers to develop a zeal and dependence on them. These preachers of "another gospel" were motivated by a deceptive and malicious evil desire to be worshipped!

Y'shua would never espouse such a doctrine, In fact, He was ultra clear about from where He learned His doctrine and how it

was to be practiced. “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”

Do not overlook this critical point seemingly buried in the fine print. It’s a commandment! What is the commandment? Pause, read the passage above again and then meditate on what you notice. Do you see it? There was a mystery kept as a secret; it’s now manifesting in the earth; and it is doing so by a new understanding of the prophetic Scriptures, which is then commanded to be made known to all nations, and that is what it means to be obedient to the faith. Y’shua said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

The Gospel of Salvation establishes your favorable permanent position with God for eternity. The Gospel of the Kingdom establishes your calling and ability to uncover the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven and to bring that prophetic message to the world. Whose responsibility is it? Again Y’shua said, “It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the

foundation of the world.” The Gospel of Salvation invites you to be a child of God through the work of Christ dying on the cross; the Gospel of the Kingdom invites you to become like Christ by taking up your cross daily and dying to everything that is not Christlike in your life. Now Paul’s words from much earlier in this letter take on their true meaning; “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” As an equal heir you can finally fulfill that mysterious calling; “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

This calling to unpack the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven is not a burden, but a blessing. Once again Y’shua said, “Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” As such we are, as Paul reminded us, called to be faithful caretakers of this blessing; “Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” Paul expanded on what we see here in Romans, the prophetic Scriptures being made known to all nations, and emphasized this aspect of our stewardship responsibility. “How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by

which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:"

Be not afraid, this was the prophetic ministry of Christ and He has passed it on to you. "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." What has now been made known by the prophetic Scriptures? And what is the commandment of the everlasting God? We have returned to where we began: "Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name." Yes, obedience to the faith: Grace-Empowered-Faith-Based-Obedience!

And may we end this long journey with Paul through his Magnum Opus, his Pastoral and Prophetic masterpiece, with an inspiration from Peter; "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." Be the holy people in this generation, who are moved by the Holy Spirit to speak a prophetic word for God.

"Think in Bible." DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

The banner is Spirit and Truth. The Spirit testifies; by the Spirit the grace of God changed your heart and made it pliable and receptive to the Gospel of Salvation. Then, also by the Spirit God's grace is available to you, at your disposal, to animate your every choice from that day forward. Might we call those decisions Spirit matters or matters of the Spirit. The Spirit testifies; it moves people and people are what matter most. Relationships matter most. The Spirit testifies to the love of God. May we prefer and love one another and be grateful for one another; may we honor and acknowledge one another. And may we all be open to the truth.

The truth verifies; truth is reality and there is a prophetic reality for which God's people are responsible. As people matter so does truth matter. They go hand-in-hand as the truth protects God's people; it is critical for all, but especially for those who are still in the humble beginnings of their faith. They are young and simple, not mature enough to defend themselves against bad doctrine. And doctrine matters because good doctrine is truth and truth verifies the testimony. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Bad teaching and bad prophecy promote dangerous deceptive doctrines, and the most susceptible among us must be protected.

May this be the banner of Spirit and Truth over your life: in reality there are two overarching gospel messages; one cost Christ

everything and cost you nothing; that's the Gospel of Salvation. The Gospel of Salvation establishes your favorable permanent position with God for eternity. The other is not free; it's the Gospel of the Kingdom and it will cost you everything, because that is the gospel of becoming like Christ. The Gospel of the Kingdom establishes your prophetic calling and ability to uncover the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven and to bring that message to the world. We are commanded to do so! Truth matters because truth is reality. You should know the truth, because it's the truth that sets you free.

BANNER OF SPIRIT AND TRUTH

1. God is Spirit

A. Worship in Spirit and Truth!

(1) Precedent for Spirit and Truth

(a) God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

1. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth**; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**" John 4:23-24 NKJV

(b) God is Spirit, and it is only through Him that we have freedom.

1. “Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty.**” II Corinthians 3:17 NKJV
- (c) God is Spirit, but you cannot trust every spirit! You must test and measure. Is this God or is this another spirit?
1. “Beloved, **do not believe every spirit**, but **test the spirits**, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.** And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. **You are of God**, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.** They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. **By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**” I John 4:1-6 NKJV
- (d) This is the spirit of the Antichrist: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

1. **“Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—**the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” I John 2:15-17 NKJV

(2) How will you know the Truth?

(a) What is Truth?

1. “Pilate said to Him, **“What is truth?”** And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.” John 18:38 NKJV
2. “Pilate therefore said to Him, **“Are You a king then?”** Jesus answered, **“You say rightly that I am a king.** For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that **I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”**” John 18:37 NKJV
3. **“Mercy and truth** preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.” Proverbs 20:28 NKJV

4. **“Mercy and truth** have met together; **Righteousness and peace** have kissed. **Truth shall spring out of the earth**, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.” Psalms 85:10-11 NKJV

(b) Truth comes from the Holy Spirit!

1. **“But you have an anointing from the Holy One**, and **you know all things**. I have not written to you **because you do not know the truth, but because you know it**, and that no lie is of the truth.” I John 2:20-21 NKJV

2. **““But when the Helper comes**, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father**, He will testify of Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” John 15:26-27 NKJV

3. **“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority**, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13 NKJV

(c) Truth comes from Christ!

1. **“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”** John 1:17 NKJV

(d) Truth comes from the Word!

1. “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. And **you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**”” John 8:31-32 NKJV
2. “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And **Your law is truth.**” Psalms 119:142 NKJV
3. “You are near, O Lord, And all Your **commandments are truth.**” Psalms 119:151 NKJV
4. “**The entirety of Your word is truth**, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” Psalms 119:160 NKJV

(e) Truth comes from Obedience!

1. ““If you love Me, **keep My commandments**. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:15-18 NKJV

(f) Truth comes from Prophecy!

1. “Now to Him who is **able to establish you** according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures** made known to all nations, **according to the commandment** of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—” Romans 16:25-26 NKJV

(g) If you are a Christian, the truth is inside your heart!

1. “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you? **You are our epistle written in our hearts**, known and read by all men; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, **written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

(3) How do you protect yourself from lies?

(a) Identify those who bring bad doctrine! How?

1. “Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine**

which you learned, and avoid them.” Romans 16:17
NKJV

(b) The doctrine said to be of Christ **MUST** be consistent with the doctrine of the Father.

1. “Jesus answered them and said, “**My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.** If anyone wills to do His will, **he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God** or whether I speak on My own authority.” John 7:16-17 NKJV

(4) There is nothing better than the truth!

(a) The battle is against the lust of the flesh.

1. “I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For **the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh**; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV

(b) Correcting someone who has wandered from the truth!

1. “Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone **turns him back**, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20 NKJV

(c) No greater joy!

1. "I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 1:4 NKJV

B. The woman at the well and PEOPLE

(1) The Spirit Moves People

- (a) The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.

1. "A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, "**If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.**" The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" Jesus answered and said to her, "**Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never**

thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. **But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth;** for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."** The woman said to Him, "**I know that**

Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”” John 4:7-26 NKJV

(b) The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city to testify to the PEOPLE.

1. “And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?” **The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him.”** John 4:27-30 NKJV

(c) Sent to reap where others have labored!

1. “In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?” Jesus said to them, **“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.** Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are

already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both **he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.**

For in this the saying is true: **‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.’”** John 4:31-38 NKJV

(d) The harvest!

1. **“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”** So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. **And many more believed because of His own word.** Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”” John 4:39-42 NKJV

THE SPIRIT TESTIFIES

2. Testimonies Matter

- A. **Relationships Matter** (Gratitude and Acknowledgment; Give honor where honor is due!)

(1) Demonstrate your love for God by the way you prefer and love others...

(a) As Paul brings his Magnum Opus in theology to a close he takes plenty of space to remember others.

1. “I **commend to you Phoebe** our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea [Near Corinth], that you may **receive her** in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and **assist her** in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed **she has been a helper of many and of myself** also.” Romans 16:1-2 NKJV

2. Paul turned to highlight the pastoral side of his apostolic calling in the latter third of this letter.

a) He has emphasized, over and over again, that how you treat others is at the center of God’s heart as the principle way to demonstrate your love for the Lord.

b) As he brings his Magnum Opus in theology to a close he takes plenty of space to remember others.

c) People matter and relationships matter to Paul; he is grateful for the Church Body and he wants to acknowledge the work being done to spread the gospel, to give honor where honor is due.

3. The very banner held over this final section of Paul's letter is Spirit and Truth.
 - a) The spirit side is just this: the grace of God that changed your heart and made it pliable and receptive to the Gospel of Salvation was imparted to you by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) In a sense, the Holy Spirit is solely responsible for your born-again moment.
 - c) Then the Spirit makes God's grace available to you on an ongoing basis, at your disposal to animate your every choice, from that day forward.
 - 1) *"Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
4. God is love and thus that is the only mechanism by which any of us can truly love our neighbors.
 - a) The truth portion of this banner will come in the final section.

- b) But first, Paul loves on Phoebe, a dear sister in the faith who has done a mighty service for God's people in Greece, including Paul himself.
- c) She too is on her way to Rome and Paul is asking that she be received well, and assisted in any way necessary to provide for her on her mission.
- d) In other words, reach out to her with loving accommodations that reflect the way Christians should treat one another.
- e) And there we have it; show your love for God by the way you prefer and love others.
 - 1) *"Owe no one anything except to **love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**"* Romans 13:8 NKJV

B. Priscilla and Aquila

- (1) Risking your life for others...
 - (a) Effective Ministry
 - 1. "Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, **but also all the churches of the Gentiles.**" Romans 16:3-4 NKJV
 - 2. Priscilla and Aquila hold a special place in Paul's heart.

- a) They have played a central role in the spreading of the good news among the Gentiles.
- b) But, it's even more personal with them. It seems they even put their own lives at risk to protect Paul.
 - 1) ***“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”*** John 15:13
NKJV
- c) They have since moved to Rome and made their home available as a place for the local church body to meet.
 - 1) *Priscilla and Aquila were apparently in Rome when Paul wrote to that congregation, and in Ephesus with Timothy when Paul wrote his last letter to Timothy.*
 - 2) *They moved from Corinth to Ephesus and then back to Rome (after the death of Claudius Caesar), hosting “house churches” in each city.*

C. The Home Church

(1) A Holy Kiss

(a) Beloved Co-laborers

1. **“Likewise greet the church that is in their house.**

Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the **firstfruits** of Achaia to Christ. Greet Mary, who **labored much for**

us. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my **countrymen** and my **fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.** Greet Amplias, my **beloved** in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our **fellow worker** in Christ, and Stachys, my **beloved.** Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. Greet Herodion, my **countryman.** Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have **labored in the Lord.** Greet the beloved Persis, who **labored much in the Lord.** Greet Rufus, **chosen in the Lord,** and his mother and mine. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and **all the saints** who are with them. Greet one another **with a holy kiss.** The churches of Christ greet you.” Romans 16:5-16 NKJV

2. This would appear to be at least a partial list of those who take part in the church fellowship that meets in the home of Priscilla and Aquila.

- a) Paul calls them beloved co-laborers as he highlights many names and some of their specific services.
 - b) It's apparent that Paul has been in communication with them, or he would not know any of this.
 - c) We should assume that his familiarity with them is at least one pastoral reason for his strong desire to visit Rome.
 - 1) *“But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. {32} that I may **come to you with joy** by the will of God, and may **be refreshed together with you.**”* Romans 15:29, 32 NKJV
3. We should all be demonstrating a type of intimate spiritual affection for one another.
- a) That is why Paul calls it a “holy kiss,” as we are literally brothers and sisters in the faith.
 - b) There is no other letter and to no other city Paul wrote that has more people in it with whom he had such a deep spiritual connection.
 - c) It all the more emphasizes the spiritual side of why he so longed to visit.

- d) And now we can move on to the truth portion of the banner: Spirit and Truth.

THE TRUTH VERIFIES

3. Truth Matters

A. Doctrine Matters

(1) Watch out!

(a) Deceptive Doctrine

1. “Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such **do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly**, and by **smooth words and flattering speech** deceive the hearts of **the simple.**” Romans 16:17-18 NKJV
2. It would be prudent to recall what was on Paul’s heart just prior in this letter.
 - a) “Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. Every commandment can be summed up in this word, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:8-10)

b) “Embrace those who are weak in the faith, and don’t confuse them with controversies over things they don’t yet understand. Instead, pursue things which bring peace and which edify others.”

(Romans 14:1, 19)

3. There is nothing more dangerous than leaders and teachers who cause a rift between God’s children with heretical doctrines.

a) New believers who have recently embraced Christ in the Spirit, but still only have a rudimentary understanding of good doctrine, are easy to fool with bad doctrine.

b) The most dangerous form of such heresies are the attractive ones that make people feel good.

c) Who doesn’t want to believe that once you become a Christian it’s all sunshine and rainbows?

1) “It’s all going to be easy from now on, and you don’t really need to do much but sit back and enjoy the ride. You are good just like you are; God loves you and that is why He chose you. He chose you in your current condition and He is perfectly fine with you staying that way. Change is difficult and God does not want to

make your life difficult. Christ took care of everything on the cross, your eternity; all your sins, past, present and future; and He sympathizes with your weakness and won't ever hold you accountable for your poor lifestyle choices—because you're a Christian now, and those future sins are forgiven in advance! It's smooth sailing from here to eternity!"

4. Any new uneducated baby Christian would be tempted to believe this Christian-lite gospel.
 - a) He could become easily offended by any fellow believer who does not share faith in the same flattering message.
5. If life as a Christian were that simple...
 - a) Unfortunately, other than the truth that when you've been born-again your eternity is secure, all the other stuff is complete bunk.
 - b) The feel-good-tickle-my-ears gospel is very attractive to those who have not yet been disciplined.
 - 1) *"For the time will come when they **will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears,***

*they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they **will turn their ears away from the truth**, and be turned aside to fables.” II Timothy 4:3-4 NKJV*

6. The best way to identify the fraudsters who have no interest in serving the Lord, is to recognize those who bring that message.

a) *“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will **secretly bring in destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. **By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words**; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” II Peter 2:1-3 NKJV*

b) *“For **when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh**, through lewdness, **the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves***

are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage." II Peter 2:18-19 NKJV

- 1) They are only in it for their own lustful benefits. Mature Christians, who have learned better, would never fall for it.
7. We have spent quite a bit of time here in Romans dealing with relationships, and bearing with one another's weakness, learning to prefer our brothers.
- a) The people and beliefs to avoid come with a spirit of "self". They use their silky words to draw attention to themselves and will appear to want their own followers.
 - 1) "*They **zealously court you**, but for no good; yes, they want to exclude you, **that you may be zealous for them.***" Galatians 4:17 NKJV
 - b) For what and for whom should you be on guard? You should be on the lookout for those who are divisive.
 - 1) You will be able to identify them because they cause division and offense.

- 2) ***“Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.”*** Proverbs 14:7 NKJV
 - 3) ***“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*** I Corinthians 15:33 NKJV
 - 4) ***“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”*** II Corinthians 6:14 NKJV
 - 5) ***“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”*** Ephesians 5:11 NKJV
- c) It's those who are weak in the faith who will be most vulnerable. Protect them! *“Am I my brother's keeper?”* The famous words of Cain when questioned by Yahweh in Genesis 4:9, *“Where is Abel your brother?”* Paul says, *“Yes you are your brother's keeper!”*
8. That is why doctrine matters—truth matters. The truth verifies the testimony!

- a) Good theology and good prophecy are paramount and cannot be ignored; they cannot give way to any soft on truth version of the gospel.
 - b) Unfortunately, it's not all that uncommon these days in the Church to hear that we should not get hung up on doctrinal issues, that it only brings division.
 - c) It seems here that Paul was very concerned with doctrine and that he admonished believers to avoid those who practiced what was contrary to what he taught. He is saying that NOT KNOWING good doctrine is what brings division.
 - d) And here he writes this at the end of his Magnum Opus on Christian theology. Yes, doctrine is important and good doctrine needs to be a part of an effective adult (mature) believer's tool belt.
9. In reality there are two overarching gospel messages;
- a) One cost Christ everything and cost you nothing; that's the Gospel of Salvation.
 - b) The other is not free; it's the Gospel of the Kingdom and it will cost you everything, because that is the gospel of becoming like Christ.
10. Truth matters and truth is reality.

- a) *“And you shall **know the truth**, and the **truth shall make you free.**”* John 8:32 NKJV

B. The Truth Empowers and Protects People

(1) Grace-Empowered-Faith-Based-Obedience

(a) Famous Obedience to the Truth

1. **“For your obedience has become known to all.**

Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise **in what is good, and simple concerning evil.**

And **the God of peace will crush Satan** under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” Romans 16:19-20 NKJV

2. It’s an amazing compliment; your obedience has become known to all.

a) And yet obedience as an idea is relative.

b) To whom or what are you being obedient?

c) Truth matters here, as obedience to the truth is one of the protections against the Devil, the father of lies.

- 1) *“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because **there is no truth in him.** When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his*

own resources, **for he is a liar and the father of it.**" John 8:44 NKJV

2) "**But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God **perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,** and that they may come to their senses and **escape the snare of the devil,** having been taken captive by him to do his will." II Timothy 2:23-26 NKJV

3. Isn't this the perfect encapsulation of the entire study of the LETTER TO THE ROMANS? Grace-empowered Faith-based obedience to God.

a) "*Through Him we have received grace and apostleship* **for obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name," Romans 1:5 NKJV

b) "*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that* **your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**" Romans 1:8 NKJV

c) "**For your obedience has become known to all.** Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you

to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.” Romans 16:19 NKJV

- d) *“but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith**—” Romans 16:26 NKJV*

4. The truth empowers God’s people.

- a) That is how grace operates. And that is why the bookends of Romans are famous faith and radical obedience.
- b) We have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith.
- c) Paul thanks God that the faith of his recipients is spoken of throughout the whole world.
- d) Their obedience to the faith has become known to all.
- e) What should be the fruit of this Grace-Empowered-Faith-Based-Obedience to God?

5. Be wise in what is good and simple concerning evil.

- a) To distinguish good and evil, as the writer of Hebrews so eloquently reveals, you must be a grown-up in the faith, a mature adult, not a simple, uneducated, un-disciplined convert.

- 1) *“But **solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**”* Hebrews 5:14 NKJV

C. More important acknowledgments...

(1) Focus on Timothy

(a) Inclusion: The Truth Includes People

1. *“Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you. **I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.** Gaius, my **host and the host of the whole church,** greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”* Romans 16:21-24 NKJV
2. Paul returns again to making important acknowledgments, this time, instead of to whom he is writing, now he names those who are with him.
“Give honor where honor is due.” (Romans 13:7)
 - a) He includes some fellow workers and even permits Tertius his scribe to identify himself, the man who is taking dictation from Paul and actually writing the words of this letter.

- b) Paul makes special mention of Gaius, the man who seems to be a central figure in the activity of the Church in Corinth, from where the letter to Rome was written.
 - c) Grace to all is Paul's heart.
3. Of all the names mentioned, it would be useful to highlight one, Timothy. Why?
- a) Because of the emphasis on doctrine in this passage, and how extensively Paul wrote to Timothy on this subject.
 - b) Paul says in Romans 16:17... "Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned."
4. That is the same sentiment for which Paul addressed Timothy when he wrote his first letter to him, after leaving him behind in Ephesus to shepherd the church body Paul had established there.
- a) It was even an important topic in his second letter to Timothy years later—incidentally Paul's final recorded words before his execution.
 - b) He urged Timothy to come against any false doctrine, especially the ones that cause disputes and confusion as mentioned above.

1) *“As I urged you when I went into Macedonia— remain in Ephesus that you may charge some **that they teach no other doctrine**, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.”*

I Timothy 1:3-7 NKJV

c) Be sure the truth you preach edifies those in the faith.

1) *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, **but what is good for necessary edification**, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”* Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

d) Guard those who are susceptible to the false teachers who invest in idle talk, and yet don't even understand what they are saying, nor the things which they claim they strongly believe.

- 1) *“desiring to be teachers of the law, **understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.**” 1 Timothy 1:7 NKJV*
- e) As time passes these type of teachers will become more common, further influenced by deceiving spirits as they spread the doctrines of demons.
 - 1) *“Now the Spirit expressly says that **in latter times** some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,**” 1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV*
- f) These men will be lovers of themselves and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. They will strut around representing their own version of godliness, but denying the true origin of its power. They will act like they are always learning, but they will never be able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - 1) *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents,***

*unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**” II Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV*

g) A good minister teaches good doctrine, doctrine which accords with true godliness, rather than an obsession with disputes and arguments, the wranglings of men with corrupt minds, who are destitute of the truth and suppose that godliness is a means of personal gain.

1) *“If you **instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister** of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the **good doctrine which you have carefully followed.**” I Timothy 4:6 NKJV*

2) *“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, **and to the doctrine which accords with godliness**, he is proud, knowing nothing, **but is obsessed with disputes and arguments** over words, **from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain**. From such withdraw yourself.”* I Timothy 6:3-5 NKJV

h) Timothy was urged to avoid the types of profane and idle babblings and contradictions that are falsely attributed to divine knowledge, and to avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

1) *“O Timothy! **Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge**— by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.”* I Timothy 6:20-21 NKJV

- i) And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, so that they may come to know the truth.
 - 1) *“But **avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.** And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God **perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,** and that they may come to their senses and **escape the snare of the devil,** having been taken captive by him to do his will.”* II Timothy 2:23-26 NKJV
- j) Remember, the truth verifies the testimony and protects God’s people. It can help those in opposition come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil.
- k) This is precisely what Paul is saying here in Romans,
 - 1) *“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”* **Romans** 16:20 NKJV

l) Paul commended Timothy for following good doctrine and for being a consistent example to the flock; he lived a life congruent with the doctrine he preached.

1) *“But **you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra — what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned** and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that **from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of*****

God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:10-17 NKJV

- 2) Again, as time passes, evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
 - 3) However, Timothy was disciplined to continue in the things he was taught as a child from the Holy Scriptures, and affirmed by Paul as his spiritual father. What he learned was profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so that the man of God would be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- m) Finally, Paul not only admonished Timothy to practice the things he had learned, but to then commit them to other faithful men who would be inspired to both practice them and be able to teach others to also live a godly life.
- 1) *“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**” II Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV*

5. In his letter to the Galatians Paul rebuked those who wanted to pervert the gospel by turning away from God's grace, preaching a sort of different gospel, one in which man could contribute to the cause of his own salvation.

a) It was the doctrine being espoused by those who zealously courted un-disciplined Christians in order to convince them that it takes something more than God's grace to be right with God.

1) *"I marvel that you are **turning away** so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, **to a different gospel**, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to **pervert the gospel of Christ.**" Galatians 1:6-7 NKJV*

b) These false teachers wished to compel untrained Christians to allow them to help them achieve the coveted status of saved.

1) *"But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you **turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?** {17} **They zealously court you, but for no good; yes, they***

want to **exclude you, that you may be zealous for them.**” Galatians 4:9, 17 NKJV

2) It was all just to convince uneducated believers to develop a zeal and dependence on them. These preachers of “another gospel” were motivated by a deceptive and malicious evil desire to be worshipped!

6. Y’shua would never espouse such a doctrine,

a) In fact, He was ultra clear about from where He learned His doctrine and how it was to be practiced.

1) *“Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**”*John 5:19 NKJV

2) *“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”*” John 5:45-47 NKJV

3) *“Jesus answered them and said, **“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him. Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me?”**”* John 7:16-19 NKJV

D. Now, go with this commission!

(1) Do not overlook this critical point seemingly buried in the fine print. *“The prophetic Scriptures made known!”*

(a) It’s a commandment!

1. *“Now to **Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,** according to the **revelation of the mystery** kept secret since the world began but **now made manifest**, and **by the prophetic Scriptures made known** to all nations, **according to the commandment** of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith**— to God,*

alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Amen.” Romans 16:25-27 NKJV

2. What is the commandment?

a) Pause, read the passage above again and then meditate on what you notice.

b) Do you see it? There was a mystery kept as a secret; it’s now manifesting in the earth; and it is doing so by a new understanding of the prophetic Scriptures, which is then commanded to be made known to all nations, and that is what it means to be obedient to the faith.

c) Whose responsibility is it? Y’shua said...

1) *“He answered and said to them, **“Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”** Matthew 13:11 NKJV*

2) *“That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: **“I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world.”**” Matthew 13:35*

NKJV

3) *“And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the*

*nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew
24:14 NKJV*

d) **The Gospel of Salvation:** establishes your favorable permanent position with God for eternity; invites you to be a child of God through the work of Christ dying on the cross.

e) **The Gospel of the Kingdom:** establishes your calling and ability to uncover the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven and to bring that prophetic message to the world; invites you to become like Christ by taking up your cross daily and dying to everything that is not Christlike in your life.

1) *“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily**, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23
NKJV*

3. Now Paul’s words from much earlier in this letter take on their true meaning. As an equal heir you can finally fulfill that mysterious calling... *“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for **the revealing of the sons of God.**” Romans 8:19
NKJV*

- a) *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”* Romans 8:16-17 NKJV
 - b) **Note:** After being stoned in Lystra to within an inch of his life, Paul escapes to Derbe where he mouthed these famous words; *“**strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**”* Acts 14:22 NKJV
4. This calling to unpack the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven is not a burden, but a blessing.
- a) Once again Y’shua said...
 - 1) *“But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that **many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.**”* Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV
 - b) As such we are, as Paul reminded us, called to be faithful caretakers of this blessing...

- 1) *“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and **stewards of the mysteries of God.** Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV
- c) Paul expanded on what we see here in Romans, the prophetic Scriptures being made known to all nations, and emphasized this aspect of our stewardship responsibility.
 - 1) *“how that by revelation He **made known to me the mystery** (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, **as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:**”* Ephesians 3:3-5 NKJV
- d) Be not afraid, this was the prophetic ministry of Christ and He has passed it on to you.
 - 1) *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the***

testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.””

Revelation 19:10 NKJV

- e) What has now been made known by the prophetic Scriptures? And what is the commandment of the everlasting God? We have returned to where we began:
 - 1) *“Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for **obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name,”* Romans 1:5 NKJV
 - 2) Yes, obedience to the faith: Grace-Empowered-Faith-Based-Obedience!
- f) And may we end this long journey with Paul through his Magnum Opus, his Pastoral and Prophetic masterpiece, with an inspiration from Peter!
 - 1) *“And so we have **the prophetic word confirmed**, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of***

God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” II Peter 1:19-21 NKJV

g) Be the holy people in this generation, who are moved by the Holy Spirit to speak a prophetic word for God.

1) **It's a command!** *“but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—”*
Romans 16:26 NKJV

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Romans 16 emphasizes Spirit and Truth, and important relationships and good doctrine:

- A. Use section ONE of the notes to craft an essay explaining spirit and truth.
- B. How does Paul's emphasis on relationships demonstrate the spirit side of the equation in Romans 16:1-16?

2. Why is good doctrine Paul's emphasis in the latter part of the chapter?

- A. Use the notes in Section Three to craft a comprehensive essays using the words of Paul to his spiritual son Timothy, and the words of Y'shua, to explain the critical nature of good doctrine.
- B. Your essay should be between 2000 and 4000 words!