

The Great Mystery

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 16:25-27.

B. Paul writes this as a summary of his major themes in Romans.

II. God is the one who is able to establish you.

A. Paul has in view God putting a believer on solid ground.

B. This is an inner security by which one can handle all the problems of life.

C. The resource for establishing is God Himself.

1. We are not given the final responsibility to bring this about.

2. There are several examples of this to encourage us: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul.

D. What God will use to establish a believer.

1. The gospel.

a. Paul does not mean that the gospel is his alone.

b. Christians all have the same gospel.

c. Paul means that he has been given a personal revelation of this gospel. (I Corinthians 11)

d. The Lord Himself had taught Paul.

e. The test of Christian truth is whether the claim is in line with apostolic teaching.

2. The proclamation of Jesus Christ.

a. Paul was a great theologian, but the heart of his gospel was a person—Jesus Himself.

b. A gospel that leaves out Christ is a phony gospel on the face of it.

c. There is no one like Jesus in all of history.

3. The revelation of the mystery.

a. The test of Christian truth is whether it proclaims the mystery.

b. This mystery is that Israel has experienced a temporary hardening until the fullness of the Gentiles could enter into the family of God and “Christ in you,” the hope of glory. (Romans 11, Ephesians 3:2, 6, Colossians 1:27, I Timothy 3:16)

c. Christ has given us the ability to deny our own strength and rely upon His own.

d. The radical promise is that God is getting ready to do something through you.

E. Jesus would be the one to fulfill all the promises to historic Israel.

F. God made these promises known through the New Testament. We must study the Bible to know the program of God.

Application questions:

1. When do you find yourself most relying on your own strength when God would have you rely on His?

2. Why is the person of Jesus so integral to the gospel?

3. What does it mean to have “Christ in you?” How have you seen this manifest itself in someone you know recently?
