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Epistle

The common thread between Torah and “The Way”

Romans 16:25-27



Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

<<Written by Tertius from Paul’s dictation at Corinthus, and sent by Phebe servant of the church at Cenchrea, to the Church in Rome.>>

Romans 16:22 “I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.”

Romans 16:1 “I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:”

Refs

Much of this tract is commentary - don’t take it as Gospel. It is here to encourage meditation and study. Use your gift of discernment, to find the truth.

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Refs

“A solemn and elaborate **doxology**” is how N.P. Williams - J.B. Philips NT Anglican theologian - describes this passage.

him = God.

is of power to stablish you = is able, through The Faith^A, to put you firmly on the right course

my Gospel^B = apparently Paul considers himself to be coheir with Christ* and that the Gospel to the Gentiles which Paul preaches is not only the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also the same as the teaching of Torah^C, which contained the gospel in a hidden manner but was now made clear. On God’s order, The Faith is to be made known to all the nations. Paul is trying to get the Jews and the Gentiles to see the connection between Torah and the ‘Way’, which together make “The Faith”.

Paul gives thanks to the *God only wise*.

[In some Mss. these verses are attached to Chapter 14. They were moved here as a fitting close to the letter.]

^A The Faith means everything that Jesus taught concerning the mysteries (hidden meanings) of the Prophecies in the Torah, the mysteries of the Parables, and the teachings of the new “way”, and insight via the Holy Spirit. Later on, some of this would be encapsulated in the writings of the New Testament. This letter was written 10 years before the first Gospel (Matthew or possibly Mark), and before the Didache, and Gospel of Thomas - two of the oldest books.

^B Paul’s Gospel -as opposed to those other Christian sects that teach “blasphemies”. A Blasphemy occurs when someone who is a member of the Church, ignores a part of the Church’s belief (creeds etc.) and proclaims that the Church is wrong in it’s teachings, and perhaps forms a sect within the Church. Churches that have differing beliefs do not commit blasphemy when disagreeing with the other’s belief.

^C Paul makes 72 references to the Torah in his letter to the Romans -

* Origen - Commentaries on Romans Vol. 1. Books 1-5

doxology - thanksgiving (glorification, benediction, doxology, hosanna)

Romans 16:25
“Now to him who is able to set you firmly on your feet—according to my gospel, according to the preaching of Jesus Christ himself, and in accordance with the disclosing of that secret purpose which, after long ages of silence, has now been made known (in full agreement with the writings of the prophets long ago), by the command of the everlasting God to all the gentiles, that they might turn to him in the obedience of faith- to him, I say, the God who alone is wise, be glory for ever through Jesus Christ, amen!”