**Romans: “The just shall live by faith”**

***Final Exhortations***

***Read:*** *Romans 16:17-27*

***Scripture and Key References:***

“Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ…”

*~ Romans 16:25a*

Matthew 10:16-17 Luke 10:17-19 Ephesians 3:20 Hebrews 5:14 Isaiah 2:2; Rev. 5:9 1 Peter 4:10-11

***Introduction:***

With his inspired doctrinal explanation of the Gospel complete, his exhortations to the church written down, and his greetings to the fellow believers in Rome behind him, you would think that Paul is ready to close this magnificent letter. But there are a few final remarks Paul wishes to make before signing off. They fall under the heading of “exhortation” and “praise”. In this last section of the letter, Paul ends with a pointed exhortation about false teachers and remaining faithful to the truth. After the exhortation he concludes with great encouragement in the form of praise. Praise to the only wise God through Jesus Christ!

***Discussion and Review Questions:***

1. In verse 17 Paul gives a warning to the church at Rome. What warning is Paul giving to the church? How can this danger be recognized? How can this danger be stopped?
2. Are you able to discern those who form factions in the church or who add to the teaching of Scripture? Read Hebrews 5:14. How can you increase your wisdom about good and become simple toward evil?
3. In verses 21-24 we are introduced to those who are with Paul. What do we learn about the church folks with Paul? Does your church reflect this portrait?
4. Spend time meditating on verses 25-27 and let them move you praise. What pieces of this praise remind you of themes in the book of Romans? As you think over the book of Romans, which chapters or themes have meant the most to you?
5. Here at the end, Paul’s praise is Gospel focused. What do these final verses emphasize about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? What does the Gospel produce in the hearts and minds of God’s people?