

## **Lent Day 40**

Saturday April 15, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

*25 Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

### **Reflection**

We have a concept of the 'self-made man or woman' and when that comes into our faith journey we become self-made Christians. Of course, this is directly opposed to the gospel which is salvation by faith alone. We cannot earn our salvation and that never changes. There is never a point when God says okay, you're good enough now to stand on your own.

This is what Paul captures when he says, "Now to him who is able to establish you..." When we come face to face with our God it will be because of his work of establishing us. In addition to this though we could understand Paul's words as he spoke earlier that God can make his servants to stand. This is a reference to the resurrection which is appropriate as we are on the edge of Easter. It is God who will raise us from the dead (vindicate us).

We can no more save ourselves than we can cause ourselves to rise from the dead. This is God's amazing power and grace at work and this is the good news that Paul has been telling us about. This is our hope and confidence, so it is appropriate that we give God the praise and glory he is due.

### **Prayer**

Eternal God, thank you for your work in Jesus to rescue us and make us your own. To you be all glory. Amen.