



# Paul and His Team

## Romans Chapter 16

# Review: Last week lesson

- 1) Be a sanctified people full of goodness and knowledge of God so we are able to counsel one another other
- 2) The gospel must be conveyed clearly and accurately (Christ alone) so people are offered to God as an acceptable and sanctified people.
- 3) Paul, who boast about Christ's work, is ambitious to preach the gospel throughout the Roman Empire. The Romans built roads, Paul used it.

# Theme of Romans 12 to 16

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

# Outline: Romans 16:1-27

Rom 16:1-16 Paul's greetings

Rom 16:17-20 Beware of dangers

Rom 16:21-23 Greetings from brothers  
with Paul

Rom 16:25-27 Doxology

# Explore Romans 16:1-16 Paul's greetings

- 1) What do we learn about the Christians in Rome from Paul's greetings?
- 2) What can we learn from Paul regarding his relationship with believers?

# Explore Romans 16:1-16

- 1) Circle the descriptions of individuals in Paul's greetings.
- 2) Who stands out to you? Why?

# Romans 16:1-16

1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant** of the church at Cenchreae, 2 that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a **patron** of many and of myself as well.

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my **fellow workers** in Christ Jesus, 4 who **risked their necks** for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. 5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet **my beloved** Epaenetus, who was the **first convert** to Christ in Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who has **worked hard** for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my **kinsmen** and my **fellow prisoners**. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. 8 Greet Ampliatius, **my beloved** in the Lord.

# Romans 16:1-16

<sup>9</sup> Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

<sup>10</sup> Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the

family of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup> Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the

Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. <sup>12</sup> Greet those workers in the

Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked

hard in the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who

has been a mother to me as well. <sup>14</sup> Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes,

Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. <sup>15</sup> Greet Philologus

Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with

them. <sup>16</sup> **Greet** one another with a **holy kiss**. All the churches of Christ greet

you.

# Observations

1) Names – 27 names. (John 10:3, Jesus knows us by name.) Do you know people's names at church?

2) Different in relationships and partnerships – sister, brother, servant, saints, patron, fellow workers, firstfruits, kinsmen, fellow prisoners, beloved, approved in Christ, elect, mother.

How much do we connect with people? Text?  
Email? Phone? (I have much to improve!)



# Observation – Roles they play

- Fellow workers – Share the load.
- Servant – Deacons. Service. Behind the scene.
- Beloved – Dear to someone. Precious.
- Work hard – Fatigue, worn out.
- Fellow prisoners – Suffered together. Courage.
- Approved in Christ – Thru fire. Remain faithful.
- Mother – A caring figure. Meals and hospitality.

# Applications

- 1) What is your impression of them? (12:6)
- 2) Can we serve together and yet know very little about each other? How can we improve? (12:11-13)

**Together**

**T**

**E**

**Everyone**

**Achieves**

**A**

**M**

**More**

# Observations

## 3) Paul's team:

- Full of unknown people. Jews and gentiles
- 6 Women
- Slaves (low in social/economic status)
- Some well-off, open home (Priscilla and Aquila)
- Quiet, humble, respectful (beloved)
- Families (mother, brothers, sisters)
- A people surrendered to God and used by God (12:1-2)

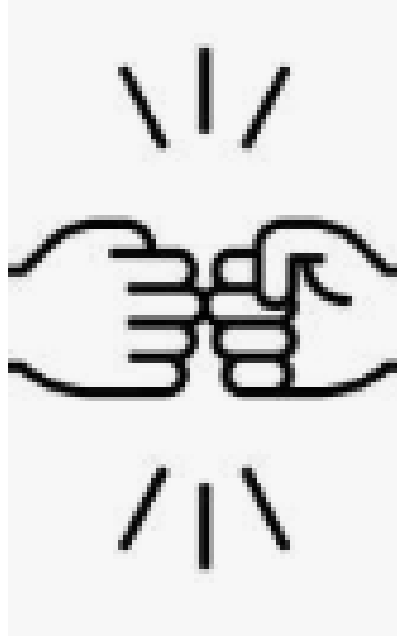
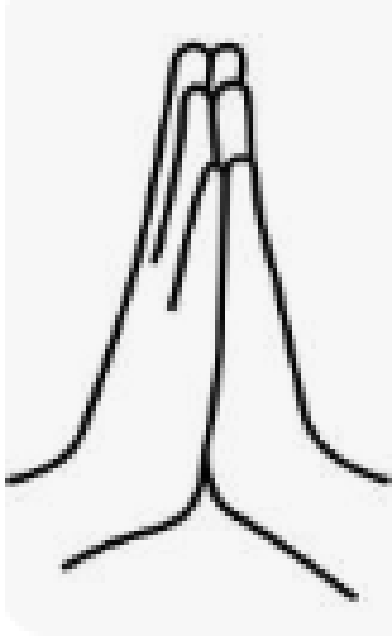
# Observations

- 4) House churches (v5,14,15) – Home is the place of meeting. What's the advantages?
- 5) Greet one another – A command. Appears 13 times. with a “holy kiss” (1 Peter 5:14) Why?

How do you greet others? (John Piper sermon)

- Let Your expressions Expand
- Let your greetings be Genuine
- Let you affection overflow





# Observations

## Women used by God

16:1 - 2

“I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, <sup>2</sup> that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

# Observations

## Important role of women

### Phoebe : “radiant”, “pure”

- Church at Cenchreae
- Servant (Deacons). Someone surrendered to God first
- Patron of Paul and of many: Give financial support
- Many believes she carried this letter to the churches in Rome
- Instruction from Paul – Help her, receive her

### Other examples:

- 1) Women in prayers – Vital (Acts 1:14 along with Mary, mother of Jesus)
- 2) Lydia (Acts 16:14) open her house to Paul
- 3) Priscilla (Rom 16:2) – a couple used by God to counsel Apollo. Risk their life for Paul
- 4) Rufus’ mother (Rom 16:13) – A mother to Paul



# Romans 16:17-20 A warning

17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; **avoid them**.

18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

19 For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



# Group Discuss: What are the temptations of the church today?

Influence or temptation of the world or culture – Can you name a few influences?

Note: We need to know so we will not follow or conform to the world (12:2) unknowingly.

# Most challenging temptation of the church today (The gospel Coalition)

The most challenging temptation for the church today is the temptation of godlessness,

- not in the sense of denying God's existence, but in living, acting, and organizing as if God is irrelevant to daily life.

- This fundamental temptation of a secular age pushes God to the periphery, centering on self-sufficiency, pragmatism, and worldly methods rather than reliance on divine power.

# Most challenging temptation of the church today

This core temptation manifests through several key areas:

- 1) The Idolatry of Autonomy: The belief that individuals are the sole authorities over their own lives, morality, and identity, which directly conflicts with the lordship of Christ.
- 2) Cultural Conformity: The pressure to align with secular standards rather than remain countercultural and faithful.
- 3) The "Authenticity" Fallacy: An obsession with being "authentic" that often validates unrepentant sinful behavior, essentializing it as "just who I am" rather than pursuing sanctification and transformation.
- 4) "Disembodied" Christianity: Technology-driven tendencies that favor virtual, screen-based experiences over physical presence and community, weakening the concept of the body of Christ.

(The gospel coalition)

A stack of several light-colored wooden planks is shown against a solid blue background. The top plank is slightly offset to the right and forward, revealing the edges of the planks underneath. The words "NON COMPLIANCE" are engraved in a bold, black, sans-serif font on the top surface of the uppermost plank. The lighting is bright, casting a soft shadow of the stack onto the blue background to the left and bottom.

**NON COMPLIANCE**

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewal of  
your mind, that by testing you may  
discern what is the will of God, what is  
good and acceptable and perfect.

# Romans 16:21-27

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

22 I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

23 Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

## Doxology

25 Now to him who is **able to strengthen you** according to my gospel and the preaching of **Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

27 to the only wise **God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!** Amen.

# Summary

1) Do not feel small or inadequate. God can use anyone who surrendered to Him. (Rom 12:1)

- God treasures these precious people including you.

2) Stay close to each others

- Greet each other passionately and develop friendship

3) Warning and not conform to this world

- Be watchful.

- God will eventually crush Satan in victory.

# Closing verse

## Romans 16:25-17

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, .....

to the only wise **God be glory forevermore** through Jesus Christ! Amen.