

The Book of Romans - Part 46

What a privilege it is to be able to study God's Word, and I count it a privilege to be able to share with you God's Word. We've been doing that for several weeks now in the book of Romans. Today, we finish our study with chapter 16 of the book of Romans.

Let me invite you to look at our Website, www.LRWM.org. On the Website, you'll be able to download every program of the book of Romans that we've gone through since we started. You'll be able to download the broadcasts. You'll also be able to download the transcript of every program of "It's a Good Life," on the book of Romans starting with chapter 1 and ending with chapter 16.

Or you can write to me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. If you'll write to me today, I'll be glad to pray with you if you have a prayer request. I'll take it to the Lord in prayer and I'll ask God to bless you and bless those requests. We can pray together that God would answer your requests. Now, my prayer is not what does the job. God does the job, but He asks us and He instructs us in the Word of God that we are to pray and we are to ask Him for things. So, if you would write to me today, I'll be glad to pray with you for the needs in your life.

Romans chapter 16. We start by looking in verses 1-24 by looking at this first section of commending the servants and saints, what Paul the apostle is doing. In verses 1-2, it says, *¹I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: ²That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.*

In these first two verses, we see a commendation of someone by the name of Phebe. Phebe, he says, is a sister servant of the church in Corinth. Look in Acts 18:18. It says, *And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.* Now, we keep reading there about Cenchrea. This was a port of Corinth, and Paul the apostle, once again, is commending this sister Phebe from the church in Corinth.

Now we go on and look in verse 2 and we see help for someone who helps others, Paul says, "Assist her." Now, Phebe was a servant in the church, and now he's saying, "You saints, you need to assist her in whatever thing she needs." And also, "You help her as you would help me."

Now, in verse 3-5, it says, *³Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: ⁴Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*

Paul the apostle gives credit where credit is due. Now, of course, he takes credit in the name of the Lord. He doesn't take personal credit. He says it's the Lord who does the work, and he passes these people on that he's speaking of here as fellow laborers as those who are helping him in the Lord. And we see these further admonitions that Paul is giving here in verses 3-5. He says, "Welcome Priscilla and Aquila"... Paul's helpers. Now, they evidently helped Paul in doing what he couldn't do and who also, it would appear,

jeopardized their own lives for Paul and every church of the Gentiles.

Notice in verse 4, lives jeopardized. They placed their own lives in jeopardy, and there evidently was a church in their house, according to the first part of verse 5. And it was also there to welcome a saved Grecian. In Colossians 3:11 it says, *Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

He's saying there's a Grecian, or a Greek, coming and you are to welcome the Greeks. You are to understand there is neither bond nor free, Jew nor Greek, that we're all one. You see how this is carried throughout the entire book of Romans? He's saying there's no difference in any of us. He's saying that the same God is over all, whether you're Jew or Greek, Gentile, or whatever you are. In Galatians 3:28 it carries this thought through where it says, *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.* We're all the same. And you're to receive these people.

In Romans 16:6-16, Paul says, *6Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us. 7Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. 8Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. 9Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. 10Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household. 11Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. 12Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord. 13Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. 14Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which*

are with them. 15Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them. 16Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

Now, I may not have pronounced all those names right. God knows who they are, and if you're reading along with me, you can see there may be a problem pronouncing these names, but you've got the idea that Paul is telling these people, "You need to welcome all these individuals." He's giving a recommendation here. Saluting and commending saints that we see specifically in these verses 6-16. There are 23 named individuals here, a sister, two households, some brethren, other saints. He's commending churches and a mother. We see this as we study Paul the apostle and the epistles, the letters he's written to churches, how that he commends other individuals. And we see this especially in these verses, Romans 16:6-16.

And then verses 17-18. He says, *17Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

There are many people even today who confuse individuals. They have something that sounds good, but it's not the doctrine of our Lord. We need to understand that there are basic Bible doctrines. The doctrine, first of all, that is the most important is the doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, the doctrine of salvation that is through His blood that we are saved. And then there are other doctrines, of course, and Paul is saying that you need to mark those individuals. How do we know if they are teaching something wrong? Well, you need to get into the Word of God and the Spirit of the Lord. It's like a switch that goes off when you

hear something contrary to the Word of God if you know it. If you've studied the Word of God, it's like a switch that goes off when you hear something contrary to a doctrine of God. In Verses 17-18, we do see a warning there. He says to point out those who cause divisions among you.

Now, verses 19-20. He says, ¹⁹*For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.* ²⁰*And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Here we see recognized obedience and results. Verse 19, the first part of that verse says "Everybody knows about you," and then he says, "You're to be wise." Know much about what is good and don't study evil. In verse 20, it says there's a promise and there's a prayer there that we see. *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan...* That's a promise and... *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.* That's a prayer of Paul.

Romans 16:21-24 says this: ²¹*Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.* ²²*I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.* ²³*Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.* ²⁴*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

This is greetings from Paul's companions here. And let me say that this Tertius, he says, wrote this epistle. Paul would possibly have a pensman who would write down as Paul would dictate what God had given him to write. Remember, this is all under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God.

He talks about Timothy. He talks about Lucius and this is a Christian at Antioch. Acts 13:1 says, *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.* Now, also, we read the name of Jason there, and you can read about Jason in Acts 17:5-7. The rest of these people are also mentioned in the Word of God.

Now, here's Paul's doxology in Romans 16:25-27. ²⁵*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,* ²⁶*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:* ²⁷*To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*

He talks about here the power to establish in verse 25, and it's according to Paul's good news, the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. The power to establish is according to the proclaiming of Jesus Christ. The power to establish is salvation for the Gentiles. God's commandment makes known, in verse 26, by the Word of God. It's made known salvation for all saints by faith. And he says, *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.*

God has certainly given us something that we can be proud of as Christians, and that is the writings of Paul the apostle. Now, once again, Paul is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He's writing the things that God wants him to write, and we've had a privilege now of studying that together as we've looked into the book of Romans.

And let me remind you that you can look at this on www.LRWM.org, a complete lesson series.

And if you do not know Christ as your Savior, ask him to come into your heart. Receive Him today. Trust Him, and the Lord will bless you by making sure that one day you will see Christ, your Savior, in Heaven.

May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.