

## Paul's Greetings and Final Doxology

### Romans 16

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 15 highlighted Paul's Gentile ministry
- Ch. 16 closes Paul's masterpiece and ends with final encouragement

#### **1. Commendation of Phoebe – Romans 16:1-2**

- One can never have too many friends. Paul lists 35 in Ch. 16.
- Sister: seldom used GK term
- 1<sup>st</sup> time church [*ekklesia*] used in Romans, 5x in Ch..
- Cenchrea: Eastern seaport for Corinth, 6-7mi E of Corinth; Phoebe probably carried letter
- Helper – only here in NT

#### **2. Greetings to Roman Christians – Romans 16:3-16**

- More likely to name individuals he knew in a town he'd never been. Tempting to skip over names – very rewarding study.
- 3-5a: probably first sent by Priscilla & Aquilla. 1<sup>st</sup> met in Corinth, Ac. 18:1-3, after expelled from R, followed P's trips, few steps behind. When? Maybe Ephesus, Ac. 19; if they didn't, P prob. would've died. 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 home churches in Ch.
- 5b: Epaenetus: 1<sup>st</sup>fruits of Achaia (Corinth there); maybe taught by P in Eph, by P&A, 1 of rebaptized in Ac. 19
- 6: Mary: common name, at least 6 in NT
- 7: Andronicus & Junias: could be male & female, husband & wife; kinsmen: family relationship; baptized into Christ before Paul
- 8: Ampliatius: common Roman name. neb "my dear friend in the fellowship of the Lord."
- 9: Urbanus: kin to 'urban,' one of the city. Stachys: head or ear [of grain], from the farm? Hayseed?
- 10a: Apelles: approved, successfully met test
- 10b-11: some connection to imperial house; Aristobulus: possibly the brother of Herod Agrippa I; household of Narcissus: Bruce: identified w/ Tiberius Claudius Narcissus, wealthy freedman of Emperor Tiberius; all of the household was greeted, incl. slaves; Herodian: Herod family. Possibly the Gospel has reached the Herod family.

- 12: 3 females; sisters, maybe twins: Tryphaena & Tryphosa. Root: luxurious, live divinely; greet delicate & dainty; contrary to names worked to the point of exhaustion; Persis, possibly aged, has worked
- 13: Rufus: Simon the Cyrene (carried JC's cross) identified as the father of Alexander & Rufus, MK. 15:21 (wrote to Romans), like a mother to Paul
- 14: house church members?
- 15: house church members?
- 16: Kiss: common greeting in those days
- "of Christ" – belonging to Christ

### **3. Warning about Dissension – Romans 16:17-20a**

- Abrupt change – Tertius might have paused to read what was written; Paul had a few more things to add before he finished
- 17: beg, beseech, plead, urge; Ch. 14,15 encouraged them to accept fellow Chr., now tells them to turn away from some; division: dissensions; offenses: hindrances; mark & avoid: formal withdrawal might be included
- 18: teachers of error not concerned about glorifying Jesus or edifying people; unsuspecting: innocent, guileless; NIV naïve
- 19: did not have in mind R Chr. as easily deceived. Innocent: unmixed, pure
- 20a: crush: total defeat; reminder of promise in Gen. 3:15; Satan behind smooth talkers

### **4. Greetings from Coworkers – Romans 16:20b-24**

- 20b: if we follow P's admonitions regarding error, we will have victory & grace
- 21: Chr. in Corinth to Chr. in Rome; dictating letter in the home of Gaius while others listened; Timothy, young man converted by P; Lucius, could be Dr. Luke (Gentile, Col. 4:10, 11, 14); kinsman – maybe all Jews. If this is true, not Luke.
- 22: only scribe of Paul to ass a note. Paul dictated all letters
- 23: Gaius baptized by Paul in Corinth, 1 Cor. 1:14; Erastus, treasurer, dir. of public works; Quartus, fourth. Maybe younger brother of Tertius, third; could be slaves/former, numbering was a common practice. Would've been well known in Rome
- 24: simple closing

### **5. Final Doxology – Romans 16:25-27**

- Maybe written by Paul
- 25-26: God is able to establish us; my gospel: committed to Paul; mystery: unknown in the past but now revealed; nations is also the GK word for Gentiles.

- 27: in all he did, Paul wanted to glorify God. Barclay: “Long argument in the letter to the Romans comes to an end in a song of praise.”

**Lessons:**

1. It is a true blessing to have many faithful friends in the Gospel. Christian friends make the best friends. Let us work together with our friends in the Kingdom.
2. It is of utmost importance to “mark those that cause divisions and offenses and avoid them.” This is not always easy to do and sometimes it involves severing friendships. However, it must be done.
3. There are many blessings to being a Christian. One of them is having brothers and sisters all over the world; it brings us great joy to know we are not alone in this battle for the right.

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