

# Romans 16 Gospel in Shoe leather

Jesus

## I. Sister Phoebe Commended

1 I commend to you **Phoebe our sister**, who is a **servant of the church** in Cenchrea, 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a **helper** of many and of myself also.

- Prominent woman in church of Corinth
- **Gentile:** Named for Greek goddess Artemis/Diana Goddess of Moon Brother Apollo god of sun
- **Now.** Trusted Servant/Helper of Paul/others to **the Glory of true God**

**Paul sends this letter from Corinth to Rome via the hand of sister Phoebe  
As Phoebe goes to Rome Paul will go to Jerusalem**

## II. Greeting Roman Saints

- Longest list of greeting in any of Paul's letters
- Over 26 named/one third women [Paul not male chauvinist]

3 Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

- **Priscilla/Aquilla** [visa versa in other vv]
  1. **Husband and Wife** working together
  2. **Jewish believers** kicked out of Rome now in Corinth
  3. **Fellow workers in the Spirit:** Putting lives on line for Paul [Ephesus?]
  4. **Fellow workers in the trade:** Tentmakers w/Paul
  5. **Bold Disciplers...**

**Acts 18:26** [**Apollos:** An eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they **took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved **Epaenetus**, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. 6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us. 7 Greet **Andronicus and Junia**, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are **of note among** the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

- **Epaenetus:** Lit. *Praised*. Paul's first convert in Roman province of Achaia
- **Mary:** Jewish name [Miriam] meaning "**Rebelliousness**"

**From rebellion to one who labored much for others...**

- **Andronicus** [Greek name] **and Junia** [Roman name]
  1. **Of note among Apostles:** Sweet

2. Saved before Paul. IOW's Paul did not lead them to Christ

8 Greet **Amplias**, my beloved in the Lord. 9 Greet **Urbanus**, our fellow worker in Christ, and **Stachys**, my beloved. 10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.

- **4 Slave Names**

1. **Amplias** my beloved in the Lord
2. **Urbanus** [lit. city bred/city slicker]my fellow worker...in Christ
3. **Stachys** my beloved
4. **Apelles:** Approved in Christ

- **Aristobulus:** Possibly grandson of Herod Great

11 Greet **Herodion**, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of **Narcissus** who are in the Lord. 12 Greet **Tryphena and Tryphosa**, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

- **Herodion:** From Herod's family or possibly a slave named after him
- **Tryphena and Tryphosa:** Both Physical/Spiritual sisters

13 Greet **Rufus**, chosen in the Lord, and **his mother and mine**.

**Mark 15:21** [Jesus carries His cross] Then they compelled a certain man, **Simon** a Cyrenian, the **father of Alexander and Rufus**, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.

- **Rufus:** lit. red hair. Father Simon carried Jesus' cross
  1. Simon's wife; i.e., **Rufus's mother was Paul's spiritual mom**
  2. Took Paul in after his conversion

*You just come in and stay with Rufus in his room [JV McGee]*

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. 15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a **holy kiss**. The churches of Christ greet you.

- **Holy Kiss 4x in NT:** Kiss on cheek

**SUMMARY** Greeting Roman Saints

**Note the Good Ones...Note the Bad Ones**

### **III. Avoid Divisive Persons**

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions** and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid them**. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own

belly [fleshly appetites], and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

- **Cause divisions:** Lit to stand apart or to cause dissention

**Proverbs 6:16** These six things the **Lord hates...** 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And **one who sows discord among brethren.**

- **Divisions contrary to doctrine:** Different teaching

#### **What do we do with them?**

**Titus 3:9** But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10 **Reject a divisive man** after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

**Proverbs 22:10** **Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.**

- Will never end till Jesus comes back...Church discipline can be a thankless job

**Numbers 16:41** [After Korah rebels against Moses/swallowed by earth] On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, saying, **"You have killed the people of the Lord."**

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

- **Wise in good:** Instructed in what God loves
- **Simple in evil:** No compromise in what God hates

You have been obedient but don't be naive...not everything/everybody is good  
Deal with those who cause division and offences. Note them. Avoid them.

20 And the **God of peace will crush Satan** under your feet shortly.

- Those that cause division are pawns of Satan and must be dealt as such

**Matthew 18:20** For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

**The God who gives us peace is the same God who crushes Satan**

**20b...** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

**SUMMARY** Avoid Divisive Persons

## **IV. Greetings from Paul's Friends**

21 **Timothy**, my fellow worker, and **Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater**, my countrymen, **greet you.**

- **Timothy:** Paul spiritual son. Young Pastor. Mother Jew/Father Greek
- **Lucius:** Possibly Luke
- **Sopater:** Companion with Paul to Asia [Acts 20:4]

22 I, **Tertius**, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord. 23 **Gaius**, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. **Erastus**, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and **Quartus**, a brother.

- **Tertius:** Paul's secretary. Now breaks the 4<sup>th</sup> wall and speaks to us
- **Gaius:** Gift of Hospitality
  1. Offered own home as church: Host of the whole church
  2. One of few baptized by Paul
  3. Lodged Paul in Corinth and **today wants to say hello to us**
- **Erastus:**
  1. Treasurer of the Corinth?
  2. Sent by Paul to Macedonia [Acts 19:22]

**Acts 19:22** [Paul] sent into Macedonia [before him] two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus [to scope it out], but he himself stayed in Asia for a time.

- Paul now **tries to end the letter one more time...**

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

**SUMMARY** Greetings from Paul's Friends

## V. Benediction

25 **Now to Him** who is able to **establish** you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began...

- **Now to Him...Only Jesus**

**Ephesians 3:20** **Now to Him** who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

**Jude 1:24** **Now to Him** who is able to **keep you from stumbling**, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

- **Establish:** *stay-rid'-zo* to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix to strengthen, make firm to render constant, confirm, one's mind

**Ephesians 6:13** ...take up the whole armor of God, that you may be **able to withstand** in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand**. 14 Stand therefore...

- **Establish:** Reason Paul wrote to the Romans and us...

**Romans 1:11** For I long to see you...so that you **may be established**— 12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Church will consist of Jews and Gentiles...Once a Mystery

**26... but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith**

- Mystery made known in NT/Confirmed by OT: **God calls all people Jew/Gentile**
- **Call to Obedience to the Faith:** If we trust Jesus, we will obey Jesus

**27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.**

**SUMMARY** Benediction