



The Finale
Romans 15:14 – 16:27

Warning Against False Teachers (16:17-20)

Paul commanded Christians who disagree on amoral matters to accept each other. However, Paul warned Christians to **AVOID** false teachers. Paul warned false teachers don't serve Jesus, they serve their own appetites. The best defense against false teachers is knowledge of the truth. If we know the truth, we won't be deceived by smooth talk and flattering words. We must "be wise about what is good, and yet innocent about what is evil" (16:19). Paul was confident false teaching will not prevail because the God of peace will crush The Deceiver, Satan.

Paul's Ministry (15:14-33)

Because he hoped to see the Romans in person, Paul wrote his letter to introduce himself and explain the gospel he preached. These verses summarize Paul's past, present and future ministry. **PAST:** God sent Paul to preach the gospel primarily to the Gentiles. Paul did so faithfully for years from "Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum" (v.19b) – about 1,400 miles! Paul went to places where the gospel hadn't been proclaimed. As a result, he hadn't yet gone to Rome where there were many Christians. Paul didn't take credit for his ministry but gave all the glory to God as the One who had worked through Paul. **PRESENT:** As Paul wrote, he was preparing to go to Jerusalem with an offering for the poor he had collected from the churches in Macedonia and Achaia. He asked the Romans for prayer as it went to Jerusalem. His prayer requests were the offering being well received and being kept safe from his enemies there. **FUTURE:** After he delivered the offering to the church in Jerusalem, Paul planned to go to Spain. On his way to Spain, he hoped to visit the church in Rome. Of course, Paul had no way of knowing that he would be arrested in Jerusalem and after court trials and human trials, he would arrive in Rome about three years later as a prisoner under house arrest.

Paul's Friends and Co-Workers (16:1-14)

Paul named 36 persons in this chapter. Eight of these people were with Paul, and the rest were in Rome. He identified 27 men and seven women by name, plus two more by their relationship to someone else. In addition, he referred to at least two households (vv. 10-11) and three house churches (vv. 5, 14, 15) plus some other unnamed brothers (v. 14) and two other women (vv. 13, 15). The households may be house churches too. Paul didn't do ministry alone, nor do we. Everyone who serves the Lord does so for the same Lord and for His glory. Everyone is important and worthy of recognition and gratitude.

Benediction to Romans (16:25-27)

Paul prayed for the Romans and gave glory to God who is able to strengthen us and who is the only wise God who has given us the gospel about Jesus Christ.