

Romans 16 – 21 March 2021

“People Matter”

Introduction

*Paul wrote Romans as best document on salvation!!

***Rom 12-end** -applying righteousness to all of life

Romans 6:4 – “As Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life.” But how?

*Rom 12-13 showed us how to apply our new righteousness to ourselves, the church, the world & gov’t

*Rom 14 showed us how to mature in righteousness. When to call out sin & how to allow for difference liberties

*Rom 15 completed the discussion of maturing in righteousness from an introspective look at ourselves.

*Rom 16 today finishes the book with an outward look at people. How do we see others now?

Today, we’ll see **3 ways that our walking in righteousness affects how we view people**

#1 – Our walking in righteousness has us caring for God’s people individually (Vs 1-16)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Receive Phebe a deaconess from Corinth
2. Women Deacons
 - a. Word for servant isn’t *doulos* but *diakonas*
 - b. Paul told Timothy (I Tim 3:11) that women having the role of deacon must be grave, not slanderers, sober, & faithful in all things
 - c. This is different than the availability of the Biblical role of pastor and elder (male)
3. Paul is passing on his care for Phebe to them!
 - a. Help this one, who has been such a help to others!

Read Vs 3-4

1. Aquila & Priscilla from Pontius now in Corinth (Acts 18) have travelled around a bit w/ Paul.
2. Notice how they’ve effected MANY lives.
3. Are there people that you care deeply for b/c of your spiritual commitments together? (I Jhn 3:14)

Read Vs 5

1. “The church that’s in their house” – the church is the people not a place.
2. Know nothing of Epaenetus but that he was of the first people saved from Achaia.
 - a. Paul had great affection for the one who was bold enough to stand up first!

Read Vs 6-16

1. Don’t know any of these except maybe Rufus
2. Most scholars believe this is the same man mentioned in Mark 15:21
 - a. Rufus’ father carried the cross of Christ
 - b. Why else mention the 2 sons of Simon?
3. Let’s focus on what we do know about this list of people
 - a. Focus on what they did, they served God very tangibly
 - b. Their service caused Paul to care for them & wanted them to be welcomed & received

#2 – Our walking in righteousness has us calling out God’s pretenders to avoid them (Vs 17-20)

Read Vs 17

1. “Mark them” – Call out, identify
 - a. The Greek is *skopeo* – to take aim (gun)
 - b. The point – indicate to other they’re trouble
2. What are they doing wrong?
 - a. Causing division–dividing folks into groups
 - b. Causing *skandalon* – a trap stick against the clear teaching of God’s Word
3. What should we do about it?
 - a. Avoid those that seek to divide & deceive
 - b. Even if they lie about you on social media
 - i. Don’t respond, leave it all alone

Read Vs 18

1. They’re not trying to give you ‘new’ truth, but trying to take truth from you, for their own gain
2. Read II Pet 2:1 – They do it privately, in a way that seeks to avoid attention. (Shine on them!!)
3. Devil always seeks to attack weak & simple 1st

Read Vs 19

1. For an influencer or deceiver among church:
we shun them
 - a. We shun them and their false teaching
 - i. They're being offered truth, but don't want it
 - b. As we learn the Bible, we see thru their evil
 - c. We don't need to learn of their lies
2. For unbelievers in the world...it's different
 - a. We don't shun them, we want to help them
 - i. We need to offer them the truth
 - b. Don't have to be an expert in all false religions, just know Christ
 - c. When one of another religion comes into your life, learn a little to "speak their language"

Read Vs 20

1. Satan is the one inspiring the false teaching and deception...God will deal with him shortly
2. When we rightly deal w/ false influencers and deceivers, we get a preview of God punishing Satan

#3 – Our walking in righteousness has us continuing in God’s power thru the church (Vs 21-27)

Read Vs 21

1. Timothy of Ephesus, Lucius of Antioch in Acts 13, Jason of Thessalonica in Acts 18, Sosipater of Berea in Acts 20
2. Timothy a son in the faith is mentioned first
3. All of these folks were integral in their church

Read Vs 22-24

1. Gaius hosted this confab of people in Corinth
2. Erastus protected them as manager of the city
3. Tertius scribed the book for Paul
4. Phebe delivered it thru a hard journey
5. Takes whole church to perform work of the church
6. It takes the whole body of Christ
 - a. You’ve heard the marital expression, “Behind every great man, there’s a great woman”
 - b. Well, “Behind every great Christian leader there’s a great church of support”

Read Vs 25-27

1. The Benediction – Wonderful focus on Jesus Christ
2. Praise God for His plan of redemption that is now revealed in the face of Jesus Christ
3. And it's for us to use the power of the H.S. to share this eternal message of salvation and life!

Conclusion

So, people matter. You can have the most solid teaching, the greatest understanding of God, but without people to share it with...it's empty.

Our life of righteousness in Christ affects the way we view other people”

- 1. We care for God's people individually**
 - a. So go street witnessing, invite someone over to talk about the Lord
 - b. When we're on mission w/ other it builds that comradery and love for each other
- 2. We call out God's pretenders to avoid them**
 - a. Jesus said, we'll know them by their fruits
 - b. It's unloving to allow others to fall for tricks
- 3. We continue in God's power thru the church**
 - a. We others are down; we motivate them and vis versa
 - b. It takes the whole body to advance the Kingdom of God forward, by power of H.S.!