



Go for God!

The Book of ROMANS
Chapter 16
“Religion vs. Relationship”

**> There are three steps in building strong
RELATIONSHIPS:**

~ **STEP #1 – GREETINGS & BLESSINGS! (v1-16)**

Observation: Paul knows and loves the people and applauds their work in the Lord!

(v1-2) Phoebe – A sister, a servant (lit. deaconess), a helper.

(v3-5) Priscilla & Aquila – Fellow workers, willing to risk their lives for others, hospitable in making their house a place for believers to gather and be discipled. (Acts 18:1-3, 24-28)

(v6) Mary – Labored much with us.

(v7) Andronicus & Junia – Fellow prisoners in Christ persecuted yet persevering.

(v8-16) A host of folks – *Beloved, fellow workers, chosen, laborers, brothers and sisters, saints, and purity unveiled with a holy kiss* (which is the kissing of another on the forehead or cheek).

- By the “Rufus” is found in Mark 15:20-21 - *And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him. 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.*

- What would Paul add to your name in greeting you?

- The heart of a servant is exemplified and taught by our Lord Jesus Christ in
John 13:3-17.

~ **STEP #2 – PROTECTION & PROMISE! (v17-23)**

(v17-19) Protect the church with sound doctrine.

- What is doctrine? A body of beliefs about God, man, Christ, the church, and other related concepts considered authoritative and thus worthy of acceptance by all members of the community of faith. Christ

condemned the doctrine of the Pharisees because it was of human origin (Matt 15:9; Mark 7:7). By contrast, Jesus' teaching was not systematic and repetitious. It was fresh and new (Matt 7:28; Mark 1:22,27; Luke 4:32). After Pentecost, Christian doctrine began to be systematized (Acts 2:42). Doctrinal instruction was given by special teachers (1 Cor 12:28-29; Gal 6:6) to those who had responded to the gospel (Rom 6:17).

- The earliest doctrine of the Christian church declared that:

(1) Jesus is the MESSIAH, the CHRIST!

- Acts 3:18 – 21 - But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

(2) Jesus Christ and the RESURRECTION!

- Acts 1:21-22 - “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

- Acts 2:22-24 - “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

(3) Salvation was by FAITH in the name of JESUS CHRIST!

- Acts 2:38-39 - Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

- Acts 4:8-12 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief

cornerstone.' *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

- These three truths are presented as a **clear fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament**. Paul taught that true doctrine is essential for Christian growth (Eph 4:11-16; 1 Tim 4:6; 6:3; Titus 1:9) and that false doctrine destroys the church (Eph 4:14; 2 Tim 4:3). (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Paul exhorted all pastors in 1 Tim 4:16 - *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

(v20) In regard to Satan, we are told in Matthew 16:18 - *And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock (the rock is, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.") I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

- James 4:7 - *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

- 1 Peter 5:8-9 - *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith,*

- Rev 20:10 - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

(v21-23) Greetings from other believers.

~ **STEP #3 – LEAVING A LEGACY OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL!**

(v24) **Grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! Amen.

(v25) Let's preach the **gospel** and proclaim the name of **Jesus Christ!**

(v26) Let's keep reading and studying the prophetic Scriptures for obedience **to the faith!**

(v27) God alone is wise, Prov 9:10 - *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* And may God receive all the **glory** through Jesus Christ forever! Amen!

A dear saint named John H. Sammis wrote the following to inspire our obedience to the faith:

**When we walk with the Lord
In the Light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.**

**Then in Fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where he sends we will go—
Never fear, only trust and obey.**

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**