

# Timeless Truth



## ROMANS: CHAPTER SIXTEEN

WEEK SIXTEEN | CANDACE JERKINS

### TIMELESS TEACHING |

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#### Romans 16

Paul has clearly articulated the truth about salvation.

- righteousness is needed
- righteousness is provided by our gracious God
- righteousness is activated on our behalf through repentance and faith in Jesus

#### I. WELCOME

##### A. Everything in scripture is purposeful.

These are more than names. These are real people who faithfully served the Lord.

By listing their names... God through Paul was...

- honoring them as both men and women
- honoring diversity within the community
- honoring the fact that ministry is bigger than one person
- honoring faithfulness

“They were like most of us, commonplace individuals; but they loved the Lord, and therefore as Paul recollected their names he sent them a message of love which has become embalmed in the Holy Scriptures. .... let us love all whom Christ loves; let us value all Christ’s servants.” (Spurgeon)

##### B. Everything in scripture points us to the heart of God.

Paul was generous with greetings/encouragement and that reminds us that God is generous with us.

Paul didn’t just lump people together but called them by name and acknowledged each one. This reminds us that God sees, loves and values people individually.

... Phoebe was a servant.  
Jesus came to serve and not be served.

... Prisca and Aquila risked their lives.  
God left heaven and came to not just risk his life but give his life for ours.

... Urbanus faithful co-laborer.  
God is faithful and always with us so we're not journeying alone.

Andronicus and Junia are noteworthy.  
God is not only noteworthy, He IS worthy!

**\*What do we do with this?**

We allow this list of names to spur us on in faithfulness.

## II. WARNING

Warnings are not meant to restrict us—they are meant to protect us.

Have we stopped listening to the warnings?

One incredible aspect of salvation is the permanent alarm in us. The Holy Spirit is God in us who is always ready to help us, guide us and give us discernment.

The Holy Spirit sounds alarms in our hearts when danger is near. God's warnings aren't there to annoy us or limit us; they're there to protect us. We must heed the still small voice that chirps and warns.

The warning is to watch out for those that *divide* God's people, *deceive* God's people and we are to avoid such people. Why? Because it's as detrimental as smoke appearing in a home. Destruction is inevitable if we don't watch out.

As if Paul, as he closes this letter is saying, don't forget there are real people whose motives aren't pure. Not every good sounding voice is from God. Heed this warning.

Dividers and deceivers never *want* to appear evil... most are likeable, loveable even!

Today this could look like...

1. Noble crusaders for a great cause, but the cause doesn't align with

- scripture.
2. Pastors/teachers who look and sound the part but are not students of the word so they spend their time sharing opinions rather than truth.
  3. Family, friends and acquaintances that are gossiping, belittling, and criticizing.

These people are dividers and deceivers.... WE ARE TO AVOID...avoid listening to, spending time with, and avoid becoming this.

Must ask: does what they say/do align with scripture?

**\*What do we do with this?**

**A. Must be on guard**

- Listen for smooth talk and flattering words.
- Listen for messages that are contrary to truth.
- Watch what people do. Are they serving self or serving Christ?

**B. Must be doctrinally sound**

- Hold fast to the doctrine been taught. (remember truth, study the truth, think on truth, stand on truth)
- Be a continual learner.
- Choose now to...
  - refuse to listen to and speak words that don't honor God
  - refuse to participate in any behavior that doesn't honor God

We'll never fully heed the warning to be on guard and be doctrinally sound unless we have been captivated by Jesus. When we genuinely love and are captivated by Jesus, it changes everything.

*\*Lyrics to Knowing You*

*All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wants to own  
All I once thought gain, I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this....*

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all, You're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love You, Lord*

*Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours*

*To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All-surpassing gift of righteousness*

*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all, You're the best  
You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love You, Lord*

Theology (the study of God) leads to doxology. (praise)

Knowing God leads to loving and worshipping him.

### **III. WORSHIP**

The gospel is not just good advice but the power of God to transform and establish believers.

True worship is acknowledging God's greatness. Paul reminds us that God is bigger, infinite, and worthy of far more than a limited expression.

Worship is not just singing songs but acknowledging and making much of Jesus.

Why is Paul worshipping?

#### **A. Victory is sure.**

Our God has ultimate victory. Satan will be defeated!

#### **B. Salvation is possible.**

This mystery isn't a secret. Its been revealed! Salvation offered to all. Because of Jesus's death and resurrection, we're able to be made right with God.

#### **C. Praise is inevitable.**

God's plan in the gospel is wisdom beyond man. We'd never come up with this. Wisdom and glory are His alone! The more we learn about our God the more we praise.

#### **\*What do we do with this?**

Romans 12:1 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Everyday faithfulness

- conversations... speak life for God's glory
- live your life... loving people, serving selflessly... for God's glory
- not making life about us... all about Him and His glory

"True wisdom directs our lives in such a way that we adorn the gospel of Christ. It is not simply knowing facts about God but living our lives to reflect His glory."

– John Piper

We've spent 16 weeks studying the book of Romans. We know the truth....now what are you going to do with it?

WEEK SIXTEEN

# ROMANS: CHAPTER SIXTEEN

NOW ALL GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE TO MAKE YOU STRONG, JUST AS MY GOOD NEWS SAYS. THIS MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST HAS REVEALED HIS PLAN FOR YOU GENTILES, A PLAN KEPT SECRET FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

ROMANS 16:25 NLT



# DAY ONE

ROMANS 16:1-16, 21-24 | People



## TIMELESS TRUTH |

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### GIVE MY GREETINGS TO....

ROMANS 16:3 NLT

#### *Read Romans 16:1-16, 21-24*

Because we know everything in scripture is purposeful, read and say each name. (no matter how bad you butcher them!) Circle each name. Highlight or underline any description given.

Phoebe, who is a servant[a] of the church in Cenchreae.

Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life.

Epaenetus, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

Mary, who has worked very hard for you.

Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews and fellow prisoners. They are noteworthy in the eyes of the apostles, and they were also in Christ before me.

Ampliatius, my dear friend in the Lord.

Urbanus, our coworker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

Apelles, who is approved in Christ.

Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

Herodion, my fellow Jew.

Greet those who belong to the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who have worked hard in the Lord.

Persis, who has worked very hard in the Lord.

Rufus, chosen in the Lord...Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them.

Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

Timothy, my coworker

Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow countrymen

Tertius, who wrote this letter

Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church

Erastus, the city treasurer

our brother Quartus.

According to what we know about God, why do you think it was important for all these names to be included?

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How does this spur us on in our interaction with people?

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How are these verses purposeful for training us?

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How do these verses reveal God's heart?

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### PRAYER MOMENT |

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God, help us to see people the way that you see them. Help us to love, value and encourage others (whether we like or agree with them... or not.)

### DAILY REMINDER |

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Every person is someone made in God's image that is loved by God. May we too love, value and encourage people.

### FURTHER READING |

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John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:9-10

*Whether we are serving behind the scenes like Phoebe, risking much for the gospel like Priscilla and Aquila, or simply supporting and encouraging our brothers and sisters, everything we do should reflect the love and faithfulness of Christ.*

Unknown

# DAY TWO

ROMANS 16:17-19 | Warnings



## TIMELESS TRUTH |

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THE REPORT OF YOUR OBEDIENCE HAS REACHED EVERYONE. THEREFORE, I REJOICE OVER YOU, BUT I WANT YOU TO BE WISE ABOUT WHAT IS GOOD, AND YET INNOCENT ABOUT WHAT IS EVIL.  
ROMANS 16:19 NLT

*Read Romans 16:17-19.*

Define wise.

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What are we to be wise about?

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Define innocent.

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What are we to be innocent about?

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According to Romans 16:17-18, what are we to watch out for?

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Why would wisdom and innocence be an important part of that instruction?

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## PRAYER MOMENT |

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God, help us to be sensitive to Your warnings and do what it necessary to be on guard and be doctrinally sound.

## DAILY REMINDER |

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Warnings are meant to protect us, therefore, we must heed any warning we read in scripture.

## FURTHER READING |

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Hebrews 2:1, Galatians 6:7-8

*The voice of caution is often the whisper of divine love.*

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# DAY THREE

ROMANS 16:27 | Worship



## TIMELESS TRUTH |

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...TO THE ONLY WISE GOD, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST—TO HIM BE THE GLORY FOREVER! AMEN.

ROMANS 16:27 NLT

### *Read Romans 16:25-27.*

According to biblehub.com, the concept of mystery in the biblical context does not imply something that is incomprehensible but rather something that was once concealed and is now revealed by God. In Ephesians 3:3-6, Paul writes, "that by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have already written briefly. By reading this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are fellow heirs, fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus."

Central to the mystery is the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Gospel reveals that through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has fulfilled the Law and the Prophets, bringing salvation to all who believe, both Jew and Gentile. In Romans 16:25-26, Paul praises God, "Now to Him who is able to strengthen you by my gospel and by the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past but now revealed and made known through the writings of the prophets by the command of the eternal God, in order to lead all nations to the obedience that comes from faith."

Paul couldn't contain his love and worship, which is why he closes this letter with worship.

Worship is the result of genuinely knowing and loving Jesus. When we live out the gospel that has changed our life, our faith becomes more than belief — it becomes action. It becomes love in motion.

- Our service becomes worship.
- Our relationships become ministry.
- Wisdom becomes protection.

Define worship.

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“Worship is not a repetitious exercise of rituals and formulas. These create a veil that actually prevents us from enjoying the presence of the Lord. Worship is the heart poured out in gratitude and awe, expressing our appreciation of who He is and what He has done for us by His grace through Jesus Christ.”

- Dave Hunt

What does worship look like in your own life?

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How has knowing Jesus in a deeper way impacted your worship?

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According to Luke 19:40, if we don't worship, who will?

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What does that tell you about our God?

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## PRAYER MOMENT |

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God, help us to remember who you are... the only one worthy of our worship. May we worship you well with our lips and our lives.

## DAILY REMINDER |

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Worship is not an option. It's a privilege!

## FURTHER READING |

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1 Chronicles 16:23-31, Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 75:1

*The foundation of true holiness and true Christian worship is the doctrine of the gospel, what we are to believe. So when Christian doctrine is neglected, forsaken, or corrupted, true holiness and worship will also be neglected, forsaken, and corrupted.*

John Owen



# DAY FOUR

ROMANS 16:25 | What are you doing about it?



## TIMELESS TRUTH |

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...ACCORDING TO THE COMMAND OF THE ETERNAL GOD  
TO ADVANCE THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH AMONG ALL THE  
GENTILES...

ROMANS 16:25 NLT

Parents have the responsibility to teach and train their children. As the children get older, they have a choice: heed their parents teaching and training or do things their own way.

Paul has “parented” us well... taught, explained, highlighted how incredible our God is... now its our choice: what we will do with it?

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Will we heed the warnings or do things our own way?

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What will we do to advance the good news of the gospel?

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Here are some great ideas... (from a brilliant mind that is not my own!)

1. **Serve courageously:** Faithful service advances the gospel.
2. **Live in community:** The Christian life is meant to be shared.
3. **Practice discernment:** Guard unity and truth in love.
4. **Trust God's victory:** The God of peace is actively at work.
5. **Stay gospel-centered:** The good news strengthens and sustains us.

## PRAYER MOMENT |

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Lord, help me bold for you! Let me live out the truth I claim to believe.

## DAILY REMINDER |

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The good news is just that... GOOD NEWS. Let's be bold to love others well and share the good news with those that God puts in our path.

## EXTRA TIME |

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Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 5:16

*Living out the truth is a lifelong journey of faith and obedience. It involves a daily commitment to align one's life with the teachings of Scripture, reflecting the character of Christ in all things. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are equipped to live out the truth, bringing glory to God and advancing His kingdom on earth.*

– BibleHub

# DAY FIVE

## ROMANS | Study Review



### TIMELESS TRUTH |

AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAUSES EVERYTHING TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD AND ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE FOR THEM.

ROMANS 8:28 NLT

***Review Romans Chapters 1-16.***

What is something you learned from this study in Romans?

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What is something you knew but saw with fresh eyes?

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Every study should leave us different than before. How are you different than when we first began?

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What are you going to do with truths that you've learned/been refreshed in?

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### PRAYER MOMENT |

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Spend time today thanking the Lord for all He has taught you throughout this study.

### DAILY REMINDER |

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Take what the Lord has taught you throughout this study and now use it to honor and glorify Him in and through your life.

### EXTRA TIME |

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Romans, Chapters 1-16