

Hero: Names Worth Remembering

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The Gospel is the power of God to save us through Christ.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

- *Why does Paul end Romans with a long list of greetings to people?* (Romans 16:1-16)

The gospel is the power of God to make us a new family in Christ.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4-5

Paul paints a picture of a community transformed by the gospel.

- Living passionately for Jesus,
- Loving and serving one another, and
- Together participating in Christ's mission.

Who was Phoebe?

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,² that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. Romans 16:1-2

Who were Prisca and Aquila?

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.⁵ Greet also the church in their house. Romans 16:3-5a

- Mary... worked hard for you
- Andronicus and Junia... fellow prisoners
- Urbanus... fellow worker
- Tryphaena and Tryphosa... workers in the Lord
- Persis... worked hard in the Lord
- Rufus's mother... "a mother to me"

The gospel is the power of God to send us on mission for Christ.

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. Romans 16:25-27

Let's Talk About It

Life with Jesus was never meant to be lived alone. In Romans 16, Paul concludes his greatest theological letter not with another theological argument, but with the names of ordinary people transformed by the gospel. Together they formed a diverse family that loved, served, and advanced Christ's mission. Their lives remind us that the gospel not only saves us... it makes us a new family and sends us into the world. Wherever God has placed us, He desires to use our ordinary faithfulness to help others know Jesus, the true Hero of every story.

Romans 1:1, 5, 16; Romans 16:1-16, 25-27

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Paul ended Romans by highlighting ordinary people whose lives had been transformed by the gospel. What does that teach us about how God measures significance? Which of the people Paul mentioned did you find the most interesting? Why?
- Romans 16 paints a picture of a diverse family serving Jesus together. What gifts, experiences, or opportunities has God given you to strengthen His church, serve others, and contribute to the building up of His kingdom?
- Paul reminds us that the gospel creates a family before it sends us on mission. How can our small group better reflect the love, unity, and encouragement that marked the early church?
- Read Romans 1:1, 5, 16, and 16:25-27. Where has God placed you? Who are the people God has already put in your sphere of influence—at work, school, in your neighborhood? How can you intentionally point them toward Jesus this week?

Take a Step

- This week, take one intentional step to show the love of Jesus to someone God has placed in your life.

Here's My Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me part of Your family through Jesus. Help me love others well, faithfully serve where You've placed me, and point people to You in all I do. Use my life, no matter how ordinary it may seem, to make an eternal difference for Your Kingdom. May Jesus receive all the glory, amen.