

Romans 16

1. Paul is finished with the main body of his letter to the church in Rome. In this last portion, Paul commends fellow workers to the Romans. Since this seems to be only a list of names, many do not see it as being that important. Do you agree or disagree? Please explain.

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What does it say about the scriptures?

If we accept Paul's words to Timothy, then this portion of Paul's letter that lists names is God-breathed. Why do you think God had Paul include these names?

2. How do you feel about women serving in positions of leadership in the church?

Can you support your view with scriptures? If so, what are those scriptures?

In Jewish society during Paul's time, women were never seen in positions of authority when it came to worship. Some modern readers see this as proof that the Bible is sexist. How would you respond to this claim?

What does Galatians 3:28 say? What does this tell us about Jesus and the church?

3. Who is the first person mentioned?

How does Paul refer to Phoebe?

What would it mean to you if Paul had described you as his "sister"?

What does this tell us about Phoebe?

In the NIV, Paul also calls her a servant. The Greek word for servant is also the word for "deaconess." Therefore, other translations refer to Phoebe as a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea. What is a deaconess?

Such a designation shows us that Phoebe was in a leadership position. What can we learn about the early church from this?

4. What does Paul ask the Rome church to do?

What does it mean to you to receive someone "in the Lord?"

To you, what is a saint?

Read Hebrews 6:10, Romans 8:27, and 1 Corinthians 1:2. According to these scriptures who is a saint?

Why would Paul urge the church to receive her in a manner worthy of the saints?

From reading these verses about Phoebe, how do you think Paul felt about women in ministry? Please explain.

5. Paul continues with his introductions. Whom does Paul introduce next?

How does Paul describe this couple?

What do you know about Priscilla and Aquila? (See Acts 18: 2 & 26 and 1 Corinthians 16:19.)

What sacrifices was this couple willing to make?

Paul reveals that the church met in their house. What does this tell us about this couple?

Why would they meet in a house?

6. Who was Epenetus?

Next Paul mentions Mary. We know nothing about her or her ministry. What can we deduce from the fact that Paul mentions her in his letter?

Read Proverbs 22:1. What does it mean to you to have a good name?

How does one get a good name?

Who were Andronicus and Junias?

What is an apostle?

Do we still have apostles today? Please explain.

In verses 8-15, Paul continues the introductions. Look carefully at those names. Do any stand out to you? If so, why?

Imagine you ministered with Paul, and he included you in this letter. What would he say about you?

Imagine you are writing the letter, and you include all those in your Bible study. What would you say about them in their introductions?

7. What is a holy kiss as mentioned in verse 16?

Why do you think Paul encouraged the church to greet each other with a holy kiss? Do you think this would be an acceptable form of greeting today? Please explain.

8. Paul concludes his letter with a warning. What is it?

What does Paul say about those who cause divisions?

For what are those who cause divisions hungry?

Of all the problems and challenges facing the church, why do you think Paul mentioned this particular issue? (See Mark 3:24-25.)

Is this still a problem with the church today? If so, why?

How do those who cause division deceive naïve believers? (See verse 18.)

9. What instructions does Paul give in verse 19?

Why does it take wisdom to know good and evil?

Do we disagree today on what is good and what is evil? Explain.

Some issues sway from good to evil. For example, many in the church argue about whether believers can consume alcohol. Is drinking good or evil? Why do we need God's wisdom to discern this?

Can you give an example of our society calling something good, evil? Something evil, good?

10. What does Paul say in verse 20?

Why does Paul say the God of peace will soon crush Satan?

How can we overcome the schemes of the enemy?

11. Who was Tertius, who is mentioned in verse 22?

Why was he writing this letter for Paul?

In this verse, Tertius is speaking for himself. What does he say?

What type of person would you select to write such letters for you?

12. Paul's final words give glory to God. Who established believers?

Upon what are we established? (See verse 25.)

Why did God hide the mystery of the Messiah for so long?

How did God reveal the mystery to us so that we know it is true?

Therefore, we study all the scriptures to be established in Christ Jesus. Does this study do that for you? If so, how?

