



## PAUL'S CO-LABORERS *Romans 16:1-16*

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Good morning! Well, we have made it to the last chapter of Paul's letter to Roman believers. Paul writes to Roman believers to receive Phoebe, the messenger who will carry this original letter over land and seas. He also recognizes and greets the saints who have co-labored with him and other apostles for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of the people listed here is unknown to us, but Paul shows the most extensive & intimate expression of love and affection toward other believers. This passage provides insights into the lives of ordinary First Century Christians and gives us an inside look at the nature and character of the early church.

### **Romans 16:1-16**

*"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. **3** 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. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. **6** Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. **7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. **8** Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. **9** Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. **10** Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. **11** Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. **12** Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. **13** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. **14** Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. **15** Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. **16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you."*

### **1. MEN and WOMEN became CO-LABORERS that Served God and His Church. (v 1-2)**

*"And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. **11** Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. **13** For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*

**1 Timothy 3:10-13**

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ **37** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? **38** And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? **39** And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ **40** And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” **Matthew 25:35-40**

## 2. Paul Sends GREETINGS to Those He Knows PERSONALLY or by REPUTATION. (v 3-13)

- Priscilla and Aquila — a married couple
- Epaenetus — first convert in Asia Minor
- Mary — hard working woman
- Andronicus and Junia — shared the same jail cell
- Ampliatius — a slave in Caesar's household
- Urbanus — a Greek
- Stachys — a Roman citizen
- Apelles — proven to be faithful
- Aristobulus — nonbeliever with believing family
- Herodion — member of royal household
- Narcissus — nonbeliever with believing family in royal household
- Tryphena and Tryphosa — active & faithful
- Persis — older woman of faith
- Rufus — a son of Simon of Cyrene
- Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes,  
Patrobas, Hermas and brothers — a house church
- Philologus, Julia, Nereus, his sister, Olympas and saints — a house church

In this context, “Brethren” refers to both men and women of the early Rome Churches. Some were married, some were single, some old, some young, some new believers, some were mature, some potential believers yet to come. Only by the grace of God can we see the church flourish & spiritually grow in the love of Christ. Would you like to receive God's grace & love by trusting Jesus Christ? Are you in God's family?

### **Salvation through Jesus Christ**

*The single most important decision you could ever make is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death. Yet through God's love, only Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead — YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to REPENT of your sins, BELIEVE in Jesus thereby receiving His forgiveness. And identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.*