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By Dan Maines

Romans 16

Romans 16:1-2

I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea, that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

† Paul commends Phoebe, likely the bearer of this letter, as a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea. Her service shows the

vital role of women in the early church.

† The early church father Origen noted Phoebe's role as proof of female leadership and support in ministry.

Romans 16:3-4

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

† Prisca and Aquila were tentmakers like Paul (Acts 18:2-3). They risked their lives for him, and the Gentile churches were indebted to them.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 55) praised early martyrs who risked their lives for the sake of others, echoing this spirit.

Romans 16:5

also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

† Early churches met in homes. Epaenetus is noted as Asia's first convert, showing Paul's personal connection to the spread of the gospel.

Romans 16:6-7

Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

† Junia is noted as outstanding among the apostles, affirming the early recognition of women in significant ministry roles.

† Chrysostom acknowledged Junia as a woman apostle, respected in the early church.

Romans 16:8-10

Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.

† Paul's greetings include both individuals and households, showing the gospel's spread through families and communities.

Romans 16:11-13

Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord. Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.

† Rufus may be the son of Simon of Cyrene mentioned in Mark 15:21. His mother is called Paul's mother, reflecting the deep familial bonds in the body of Christ.

Romans 16:14-15

Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters with them. Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

† A wide network of believers is mentioned, showing the extensive spread of the gospel in Rome.

Romans 16:16

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

† The holy kiss symbolized covenant love and unity in the early church.

Romans 16:17-18

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such people are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

† Division is warned against. False teachers seek to serve themselves. Believers must guard against deception.

† The Didache (ch. 11) warned of false teachers who exploited the church. Paul issues the same warning.

Romans 16:19-20

For the report of your obedience has reached everyone; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

† Paul assures them of imminent victory. The crushing of Satan recalls Genesis 3:15, fulfilled in Christ and His people's victory.

Romans 16:21-23

Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and so do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen. I, Tertius, who have written this letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus, the brother.

† The greetings show Paul's team effort. Tertius was the scribe who penned the letter. Erastus was a city official, showing the gospel's reach into positions of influence.

Romans 16:24

[The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.]

† Some manuscripts omit this verse, but its message of grace reflects Paul's consistent closing.

Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now has been disclosed, and through the Scriptures of the prophets, in accordance with the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

† Paul closes with a doxology. The mystery once hidden is now revealed: Christ for all nations.

† This fulfills Daniel 2:28-44, where the mystery of the kingdom is revealed and established forever.

How it applies to us today

† The church is a diverse body with men and women, Jew and Gentile, working together for the gospel.

† False teachers still seek to divide. We must be watchful and cling to sound teaching.

† God has revealed the mystery of Christ, now fulfilled. Our call is obedience of faith and glory to God.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Origen, Commentary on Romans – Phoebe as a servant of the church

- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 55 – Praising those who risked their lives
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