

ROMANS 16: 1-16 – A LIST OF FRIENDSHIPS -- PHOEBE COMMENDED; GREETING ROMAN SAINTS

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

Romans 16 -- Accepting the ministry of others -- Sister Phoebe Commended

1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant (intermediary, courier) *of the church in Cenchrea*, Paul commends, favorably introduces Phoebe, a woman believer who is a servant of the Cenchrea church.

2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. Phoebe is being introduced to the church in Rome, asking them to receive her properly; help her as a fellow believer, just as she has been a helper of many, including Paul.

Appreciating the Ministry of Others --Greeting Roman Saints - 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. Here the familiar couple, Priscilla and Aquila, Paul's co-workers in Ephesus are being introduced. (b27 names – verses 1-16)

4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Priscilla and Aquila risked their very lives for Paul. He and all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks.

5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. Similarly, greet their house church. Also greet Epaphroditus, who was the first one saved in Achaia.

INTERPRETATION

Now I introduce and commend to you our sister Phoebe (bright or radiant), a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea (near Corinth/Lechaeum, west side). Recommendations were important because there were many who were deceivers who wanted to take advantage of Christian generosity. She is a sister. She is a servant (female deacon in the original-submissive to own husband). 1 Tim. 3:11; Acts 18:8

That you may receive her in the Lord with a warm Christian welcome, as a believer, God's people, ought to receive one another. And assist her in whatever matter she may require help from you, for she has been a helper (a real leader) of many including myself, shielding us from suffering. Phil. 2:29, 1:27; Romans 12:8

Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers, in Christ Jesus, for their coming into my life; for their counsel to Apollos and for their comfort, their help to Paul. We see Priscilla and Aquila working closely with Paul. They were driven from Rome by Claudius, came to Corinth, then to Ephesus, then back to Rome, and again to Ephesus. Phil 1:3; Acts 18:1-3, 18, 24-28

Who risked their lives, endangering their very necks, for my life. To them not only I but also all the churches among the Gentiles give thanks.

Remember me also to the church that meets in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was a firstfruit, the first convert to Christ in Achaia. Notice the expression of love! 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19

APPLICATION

This is an example for our prayer life. We need to accept the ministry of others. We should be quick to recommend those who are so deserving in times of opportunity. Blood ties in our biological family not so important as spiritual ties with other believers. Romans 12: 8, 10

We want to remember to appreciate, to accept and to recommend the ministry of others and to give thanks for them. Are you, am I, quick to do that? Romans 15:7

What precious relationships the Lord permits to develop among the body of Christ. We need to remember them, thank them and pray for them!. Here many names are remembered and appreciated. One day we will meet these names mentioned by Paul.

Those who have given all to help us, we own a special debt of thanksgiving and prayer support!

The preciousness of home fellowships. May we pray for them and those attendees.

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6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us. Greet Mary, who worked hard and long for us.

Greet Mary, who has **worked** so hard among you.

We want to encourage and exhort all men, particularly those who have worked hard with and for us!

7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Greet Andronicus and Junia, fellow countrymen, fellow prisoners, noteworthy apostles, who were believers before Paul.

Remember me to Andronicus and Junias, my tribal kinsmen and once my **fellow prisoners**. They are men held in high esteem among the apostles, who also were in Christ before I was.. Two of the friends to remember were known as apostles (sent-“*misso*”-missionaries). They were fellow prisoners of Paul. Most probably long term believers. **Acts 1:13, 26; Gal. 1:22**

Remember those who served with us. Praise Him for the noteworthiness of these two apostles. May we be likewise totally committed.

8 Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Amplias, another close believing friend.

Remember me to Amplias, **my beloved** in the Lord.

We need to pray for both believing and unbelieving ones who the Lord leads us to.

9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. Greet Urbanus, another fellow worker and Stachys, a close friend of Paul's.

Salute Urbanus, our **fellow worker** in Christ, and my dear Stachys.

Bless those fellow workers and close friends, please Lord!

10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. Greet Apelles, another believer and greet the whole household of Aristobulus.

Greet Paellas that one tried and **approved** in Christ , the Messiah, who must have gone through a tough time. Remember me to those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. **Jas. 1:12**

We should greet individuals and also whole households!

11 Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. Greet Herodion, another one from Israel. Also those of the household of Narcissus, who are believers.

Greet my **tribal kinsman** Herodion, and those in the Lord who belong to the household of Narcissus. **Rom. 9:3**

Also we need to be aware of those who are countrymen, especially those believers in every household.

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12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord. Greet Tryphena and Tryphose, who have been diligent workers. Also Persis, a dear friend who has labored much in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. Greet Rufus, a believer and his mother, who is also like a mother to Paul.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, including the believers who are with them.

15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister and Olympas as well as all the believers with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you. Greet or salute one another with a physically pure and morally blameless kiss. The churches of Christ salute or greet you!

INTERPRETATION

Salute those female workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa (Dainty & Disdain). Greet my dear Persis, who has worked so hard in the Lord.

Remember me to Rufus, eminent in the Lord, also to his mother who has been like a mother (wife of Simon the Cyrenian who carried Jesus' cross) to me as well.
Mark 15:21

Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the **brethren** who are with them.

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

Greet one another with a holy (physically pure and morally blameless, consecrated) kiss. All the churches of Christ (the Messiah) wish to be remembered to you. We are not to reduce down the closeness of the relationship of believers! **1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14**

APPLICATION

We need to praise and thank the Lord for those who have and are laboring much in the Lord.

Rufus was probably the Rufus, the son of Simon the Cyrenian who carried Jesus' cross. We need to remember those so used as well as their parents.

It is good to pray by name for our believing brothers, as well as other believers, whose names we do not know..

We must pray for all who the Lord puts in our heart and mind to pray for.

As the situation permits, we are to greet all our brothers and sisters with a holy kiss- a kiss of love! This kiss is to be physically pure and morally blameless. We should respond to other believers with love and affection. Are you one who reaches out to others – brothers and sisters of the Gospel? “I appreciate you so much for what you did....” How thankful are you for your fellow believers? How expressive have you been to those who have been of great help to you?

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