

Romans – Bible Study – Chapter 16:1-27

Paul finishes off his letter to the Romans by naming 36 persons in this chapter. Eight of these individuals were with Paul and the rest were in Rome. You will notice that most of the names are Gentile, reflecting the mainly Gentile population of the church in Rome. Paul also gives one last warning to the Roman church before concluding with a doxology for the church.

Personal greetings

(Verses 1-16) Paul addresses many people in these verses. Some of the names are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament while others are being mentioned for the first time. Take some time to explore who these individuals are and what relationship they had with Paul:

Person or Persons	Cross References	Connection
Phoebe (v. 1-2)	2 Corinthians 3:1; Acts 18:27	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She was a messenger of Paul's letter from Corinth 2. She was a servant that actively worked in the church from where she was from (Cenchrea, a port city just outside of Corinth) 3. A sister in the Lord 4.
Prisca/Priscilla and Aquila (v. 3-5a)	Acts 18:2-3, 18-28; 1 Corinthians 16:19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ministry partners with Paul first in Corinth, then in Ephesus, before eventually returning to Rome 2. Were of the same trade and he stayed with them 3. They 'risked' their lives for him
Epaenetus, Mary, Andronicus, Junia	Philippians 1:7; 4:14; Acts 14:4, 14; 2 Corinthians 8:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They were fellow Jews who helped to serve with Paul
Tryphaena and Typhosa		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May have been sisters working with Paul
Rufus, Rufus' mother	Mark 15:21	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rufus, who's father is thought to be Simon of Cyrene, who was the one who carried the cross for Christ 2. Rufus' mother was like a mother for Paul, caring for him
Asyncritus, Phelgon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them, Philogogus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, Olympas and all the saints with them, Ampliatus, Urbanus, Stachys, Apelles, family of Aristobulus, Herodion, family of Narcissus, Persis		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members or leaders of home churches within Rome 2. They are from all different backgrounds (i.e. slaves and freedmen, women and men)

What is Paul illustrating by mentioning all these names?

- In his ministry, he cannot do it by himself and that he needs partners in order to accomplish this work
- This should be important to us, to partner with those who are out in the field doing the Lord’s work, and for those who are actively doing the Lord’s work full-time, to look for partners to help them in their ministry
- It is a two way street and this goes to emphasize the need to work together as a body
- Also, it shows the body, from its diverse background, working together for the cause of building up the church (**Ephesians 4:11-16**)

(Verses 17-23) Why is Paul very emphatic and adamant with his final warning to the Roman church (2 Timothy 2:16-18)? What are some actions the Roman church needs to take in order to heed the warning? Who are the individuals that Paul mentions in this passage and what is their connection/relationship to Paul?

- False teachers were a danger to all churches and Paul urges his Roman readers to avoid them
- This is to be treated like a plague or virus that needs to be eradicated (**2 Timothy 2:16-18**)
- There is a antagonism and dissension that false teaching creates within a church
- Satan is behind all evil ultimately, under God’s sovereignty
- As well, he doesn’t want people to follow the smooth talk and flattery that may come
- Some actions that they could take are as follows:
 - They were to be obedient to the word and teaching of God by the apostles
 - They were already commended by Paul for their obedience so Paul had no worries about that, but they did have to be vigilant
 - They were to be ‘wise’ concerning all ‘good’
 - To be ‘innocent’ regarding ‘evil’ (cf. Matthew 10:16)
 - Being innocent doesn’t equate to naiveté
 - This meant that they needed to be prudent in all matters, both good and evil
 - To be on the lookout for those who would teach something different from the gospel that Paul preached

Person or Persons	Cross References	Connection
Timothy	Acts 16:1-3	1. Fellow missionary and a disciple
Lucius, Jason, Sosipater	Acts 17:5-9; Acts 20:4	2. ‘Lucius’ may have been Luke, the writer of Luke and Acts 3. ‘Jason’ may have been Paul’s host in Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-9) 4. ‘Sosipater’ or “Sopater of Berea”, accompanied Paul when he left Greece toward the end of his third missionary journey
Tertius		1. Paul’s “amanuensis”, or copyist/secretary, who wrote down the is epistle for him
Gaius, Erastus, Quartus		1. Other Corinthian believers

(Verse 24-27) A doxology, by definition, is “an expression of praise to God, especially a short hymn sung as part of a Christian worship service”. In this passage, identify the phrases that should cause the Romans (and us) to give praise to God.

- **Notes to the leaders** – You will notice that in this passage, the statements that Paul uses in the doxology are mirrored in the opening statements of his letter:
 - The gospel of Jesus (v. 25, cf. 1:3)
 - Being revealed by God so that all nations might believe and obey (v.26, cf. 1:5)
- **God can keep you by my gospel (v. 25a)**
 - Paul proclaims that God is able to establish them through it
 - This means that as they trust His promises of salvation through Christ, God will keep them secure, even though they may suffer in this world, and that He will certainly complete His plan to conform them to the likeness of Christ (8:29-39)
 - The Romans must abide by Paul’s gospel about Jesus Christ, for it is the way that God will secure them for glory
- **This gospel has been made known (v. 25b-26)**
 - Paul highlights how privileged the Romans (and we) are by receiving the gospel message, the plan of God’s salvation
 - This was previously hidden, but made known to all so that they can believe and call on Christ for salvation (10:8-13)
- **Praise God (v. 27)**
 - Paul praises God for graciously revealed his plan of salvation for all people
 - Therefore all glory is due to Him, not only because of who He is, but because of what He has done, which is access to God through His Son, Jesus Christ
- **To the only wise God (v. 27)**
 - He is the God of both Jews and Gentiles (cf. 3:29-30)
 - He is the author of the plan of salvation for all mankind

Paul ends his letter with greetings towards those in the church at Rome. Though never having been to the church in Rome, Paul encountered these individuals during his various missionary journey and counted them as his brothers and sisters in Christ. You can see within his closing remarks that he genuinely loves these people and longs to see them again. After giving the Gospel message and teachings to the church, he emphasizes how great God is, how he will establish and sustain those who have heard and accepted the gospel message. This is meant to give the Romans confidence in the gospel he has explained, and thereby to encourage them to stand by it.

Points to Ponder:

- With the message the Paul has given to the Roman church, are you inclined to study the bible on a deeper level so that you get a richer understanding of God?