

<sup>1</sup> I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

Cenchrea was the home of Phoebe. It was the eastern seaport of Corinth, a few miles across the Isthmus from Corinth. There has been much said for and against the possibility that Phoebe was an official deaconess of her home church. But the use of the word *diakonos*, here translated servant, does not prove that she occupied an official position. In these letters to the churches the word is used a number of times, but not in any official sense, unless in this one place. We let our minds run to officialism too much. On account of the social condition of women of that age, aged women of experience, piety and ability were needed to teach, encourage, and otherwise help young women. On this point see 1 Tim.5:3-16; Tit.2:3-6. To select a person for a certain work does not necessarily make him an officer in the common acceptance of that term. To select a man to hold a series of meetings does not make him an officer, and no one thinks so. Selecting a song-leader does not make him an officer. Selecting certain women to attend to certain duties does not make them deaconesses in any official sense. *Diakonos* therefore had no official significance. It is thought by some that she was the bearer of Paul's letter to Rome, but that is not certain. She evidently went to Rome on certain business, for Paul urges the brethren to "assist her in whatever matter she may have need." To receive her in the Lord was to treat her as a worthy Christian should be treated; "for she herself also hath been a helper of many, and of mine own self." Those who help others always commend themselves to the Lord.

[A New Commentary on Paul's Letter To The Saints At Rome](#) by Robertson L. Whiteside pg. 292-293

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

Aquila & Priscilla --- Paul stayed with them at Corinth [Acts 18:1-3](#) --- They were involved in teaching Apollos [Acts 18:26](#) --- The church that is in their house [1st Corinthians 16:19](#)

<sup>4</sup> who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

<sup>5</sup> Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who labored much for us.

**Romans 16:6 (ESV)** Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

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

<sup>8</sup> Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

<sup>10</sup> Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus.

<sup>11</sup> Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the *household* of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

**Romans 16:13 (ESV)** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

His mother also had endeared herself to Paul as his own and illustrates how the family of God's people is numberless, **Mark 10:29-30**.

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<sup>14</sup> Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them.

<sup>15</sup> Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

<sup>16</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

v.16-The kiss is a common means of greeting for people in the East even today as it was at that time. The purpose here was not to reveal a new command, but rather to regulate a common custom by emphasizing that it must be "holy." The greeting must be pure, sincere, and without guile. Greetings of brethren, whether by a kiss or handshake, should be a salutation out of love unfeigned, prompted by the mutual love of Christ, 1 Pet.1:22; 5:14.

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After Paul said, "Greet one another with a holy kiss," he added, All the churches of Christ greet you. When the word "church" is found in the plural in the New Testament, it refers to local congregations. "Churches of Christ" is not a proper name, but a descriptive designation. In this setting, "of Christ" means "belonging to Christ." The phrase "churches of Christ" refers to congregations that belong to Christ. (Compare it to the phrase "My church" in Mt. 16:18.) Another way to express the last part of Romans 16:16 would be "All of Christ's churches (congregations) greet you."

**Truth For Today Commentary-Romans 8-16** by David L. Roper pg.452-453

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

**Romans 16:17 (ESV)** I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

See: **Colossians 2:4, 8** --- **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:1-3** --- **2<sup>nd</sup> John 9-10** --- **Proverbs 6:16-19**

<sup>18</sup> For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech **deceive the hearts of the simple**.

**Romans 16:18 (ESV)** For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they **deceive the hearts of the naive**.

**Romans 16:18 (NASB)** For such men 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**.

**Romans 16:18 (NIV)** For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they **deceive the minds of naive people**.

<sup>19</sup> For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and **simple concerning evil**.

**Romans 16:19 (ESV)** For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and **innocent as to what is evil**.

<sup>20</sup> And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

<sup>21</sup> Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

Timothy = **Acts 16:1-3, Philippians 2:19-22**

<sup>22</sup> I, Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Gaius, my host and *the host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.

v. 23 Gaius was Paul's "host" and evidently a man of great hospitality who provided such to any believer in need of it. He may well be the same person baptized by Paul at Corinth, 1 Cor. 1:14.

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<sup>24</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

<sup>25</sup> 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 kept secret since the world began

<sup>26</sup> but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—

Remember: **Romans 1:5, Romans 6:17 & Romans 11:18-22**

<sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Questions Romans 16

1. What do we learn about Phoebe?
2. List the verses that speak of Aquila & Priscilla, and what do we know about them?
3. How does Robert Harkrider apply **Mark 10:29-30** as he speaks of Rufus?
4. Where does it speak of the *“holy kiss”* and *“The churches of Christ greet you”*?
  - a. What explanation is given by Robert Harkrider and David L. Roper concerning these two phrases?
5. What **warning** is given to the disciples at Rome and how would they be able to handle this issue?
6. Did the example of the Christians at Rome have an effect upon others?
7. What has been made known to all nations?
8. How would you define *“obedience to the faith”* using scripture?
9. What will you choose to remember from this chapter?
10. List **three important lessons** you will remember from your study of the book of Romans.