**ROMANS 16**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL’S DOXOLOGY**

**PAUL GETS PERSONAL**

**Romans 16:1** I commend ***(recommend)*** to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant ***(Diakonos = Deaconess)*** of the church in Cenchrea, ***(Seaport of Corinth, Greece)***

* **Phoebe** was such an important part of the ministry of the early church that Paul mentions her first and asks that she would be welcomed and supported in her ministry.
* Some denominations and even some Calvary Chapels have taken an extreme view on women working in ministry that they exclude women from even serving as deacons… That WAS NOT the case in the first church.
* What role IS excluded from women? Pastoring churches. NOT in all denominations however… SO… Which is the proper opinion? Mine😊
* The qualifications for being a Pastor and Elder include prerequisites that obviously are written for men.
* What is the most important role for the Ladies of our church? PRAY that the guys don’t mess up things too much… But we have great teachers, worship leaders, and deaconesses who are ladies and we would be hurting without them!

**SO, COMING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED…**

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 was a business-woman AND a partner in Paul’s ministry… IN FACT she was the one who delivered this epistle TO the Roman church.
* Paul mentions that Phoebe had been involved with many ministries too.
* Ladies, may it be said of you too that like Phoebe, you are a help to many. I too want to **be like Phoebe**…

3 Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

* Mentioned six times in the New Testament, this ministry team is fascinating. They are first mentioned as being in the same industry as the Apostle Paul – that is they were tent makers. **(Acts 18)**
* They were Romans who had already felt the persecution directed at Jews by being driven from their home and from their homeland, Italy.
* In Acts 18 we see them discipling and mentoring other ministers. They will end up living and ministering in Ephesus, and even started a church there – meeting in their house.
* **Moms…** It is a great compliment to you IF your home is a place that welcomes ministry. I need to say thank you to both Galina and Vijay AND to Kelly and Dan… You guys are the Aquilla and Priscilla of Calvary Chapel Simi Valley – AND not the only ones either. We have had ministry events at Lynette’s house… The Skelly’s, The Browns, the Carpenters, The Phenicie’s, Terrie’s house, Melody’s house, The Leedholme’s had the men for breakfast, The Garret’s suffered through a garage sale and many men’s breakfast’s, we have swam at the Meza’s, And we also met at the Bauer’s, the Ball’s, the Dominguez’s, The DiMartini’s, We had a swim party at the Patrick’s… And there are more of you Aquilla’s and Priscilla’s that I forgot to mention. **THANK YOU to all!**

**HOUSE CHURCH**

5 Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house.

Greet my beloved Epaenetus, **(Ape-pay-a-netus)** who is the firstfruits of Achaia ***(In Greece close to Corinth)*** to Christ.

* The Apostle felt like those who accepted Christ through his ministry were family… As Timothy was treated like Paul’s son, so is this man whose name is SO fun to say…

6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us.

* We don’t know the life story of this Mary… THIS we do know however… Paul is greeting people he knows who are currently ministering in ROME… But, Paul has never been to Rome yet. He is saying hello to Saints he knew from Greece who suffered persecution and had to flee from their homes… In response to having to run for their lives, they settled into a new country… looked around for a place to serve the Lord… And got busy.
* The word “Us” in V6 also means YOU! Mary suffered discrimination, then got busy serving others. Hated for her race… She ran a good race for God.

**TWO VERY IMPORTANT WOMEN**

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

* Here are two more women of God that like Mary, suffered for the sake of the Gospel.
* They were friends and fellow ministers with the Apostle Paul and at some time were taken prisoner with him… Sometimes, ministry with Paul was difficult.
* Paul says that they had come to Christ before him. Perhaps they had some ministry in Paul’s early days in the Lord.
* They were sent out by the church – as missionaries and that is why they are important to the Apostle. I imagine they were like our Karen Holdcraft – sent out by the church in America to build ministries and building for ministry around the world. I got an email from Karen this week and she says to pass along a big THANK YOU to you CCSV!

8 Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord.

* We do not know much about Amplias, but his tomb is among the catacombs that you can go and visit underneath Rome. **GUZIK**

9 Greet Urbanus, (**A Roman**) our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, ***(Greek name)*** my beloved.

* These two men were named among the original 70 disciples. It is interesting that “Urbanus” is a name chosen by several Popes over the centuries… Urbanus means “Refined, cultured”
* FYI – the most common name chosen by Popes = JOHN.

10 Greet Apelles, (Possibly the same as Apollos) approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the ***household*** of Aristobulus.

* Some commentators think that sadly, Aristobulus himself was NOT a believer, but his family had accepted Jesus as their Lord.
* Sad that he gets a mention, but NOT for his faith.

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

12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, ***(Delicate)*** who have labored ***(MUCH)*** in the Lord. Greet **the beloved** Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

* Paul makes the point that though their names means delicate, they were strong and hard workers for Jesus!
* Paul says THE BELOVED concerning the Ladies because he is being careful to not get too personal with them. It is a good lesson for men to learn from the Apostle! BE CAREFUL! Treat ladies with much respect and honor!

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

* Rufus was traditionally the son of the man, Simon, who was compelled to help carry the cross of Christ… **Matthew 27:31**
* Paul considered this man’s Mom his Mom as well. Her ministry meant SO MUCH to the Apostle… He called her “Mom!”

**TEAM GREETINGS**

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

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

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. **(CEV – Warmly… NLT – Christian greeting)** The churches of Christ greet you. ***“One more thing…”***

**FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND GREETINGS**

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note those** who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ***Avoid people who like to argue! STOP answering their emails!***

18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, ***(Appetite)*** and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. ***They practice their arguments… AVOID them!***

19 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.

**THE BATTLE IS WON!**

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

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

**HAVE YOUR PEOPLE WRITE TO MY PEOPLE**

22 I, Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, greet you in the Lord.

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

**IN CONCLUSION… again…**

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

**DOXOLOGY**

25 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 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—27 to God, alone wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.