

Romans 16:1 *I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,*

Phoebe carried this letter to Rome from Paul and this was the only time she was mentioned in scripture. Cenchrea was a port of Corinth also mentioned in Acts 18:18.

Romans 16:2 *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.*

Many people believe women should remain silent and only perform duties within the house. Phoebe was a vital vessel in advancing the gospel.

Romans 16:3 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,*

Priscilla was mentioned five times in scripture (Acts 18:2-17, Acts 18:26, 1 Cor 16:19, 2 Tim 4:19). Priscilla was obviously one of Paul's trusted companions and fellow laborers since we see her named mentioned in at least four different books.

Aquila was also mentioned frequently in the same books along with Priscilla.

Romans 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.*

No greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend (John 15:13). Aquila and Priscilla assisted Paul in advancing the gospel. They were also acknowledged among the churches of the Gentiles.

Romans 16:5 *Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.*

The early church started in homes. This is the only time Epaenetus is mentioned in scripture.

Achaia was a historic region of Greece. A country of Europe mentioned eleven times in scripture (Rom 15:26, Acts 18:12, Acts 18:27, 2 Co 1:1, 2 Cor 9:2).

Romans 16:6 *Greet Mary, who labored much for us.*

There are people today that think once they enter the covenant of grace, there is no more work. Paul said he labored in the gospel but it was not him but God in him (Col 1:29).

Romans 16:7 *Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.*

This is the only time Andronicus is mentioned in scripture. Junias was also only mentioned once in scripture. Both were fellow prisoners of Paul and seems to have come to the Lord before Paul's conversion.

Romans 16:8 *Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord.*

Amplias was only mentioned here in scripture.

Romans 16:9 *Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.*

Urbane and Stachys were Christians both only found once here in scripture.

Romans 16:10 *Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.*

Apelles was only mentioned once in scripture. He was of Aristobulus household and he was found only once in scripture also.

Romans 16:11 *Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.*

Herodion was only found here in scripture and was Paul's fellow kinsman. The word kinsman in Greek is suggenes and means relative or cousin.

Romans 16:12 *Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.*

Tryphena was a Christian woman only found once in scripture. The word labor in Greek is kopiao and means to work hard or toil. Persis was also a Christian woman who was also known for her labor in the Lord.

Romans 16:13 *Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.*

Rufus was also mentioned in Mark 15:21.

Romans 16:14 *Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them.*

Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, and Hermes were all only mentioned here in scripture.

Romans 16:15 *Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.*

Philologus, Julia (a Christian woman), Nereus, and Olympas were all only mentioned here in scripture.

Romans 16:16 *Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.*

The early church shared a kiss when they greeted one another.

Romans 16:17 *Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*

Paul is now concluding his letter with final instructions and greetings. Paul is not saying to avoid people who do not think like us in general but to avoid those who cause division.

Romans 16:18 *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.*

Those who cause division are those who are their own savior and have rejected salvation through Jesus. The people that are easily deceived are those who are innocent. This word simple is referring to someone who is gullible like a child and carried away by all kinds of doctrine (Heb 13:9).

Romans 16:19 *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 word simple here in Greek is akeraios and means innocent. We should not be skilled in evil behavior but it should be foreign to us because that is not our nature (Rom 6:2).

Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

Paul also referred to God as the God of peace in Romans 15:33. One of God's redemptive names is Jehovah Shalom. The word Shalom means peace; The Lord is peace. God's redemptive names reveal His nature and He will never step outside His nature. Again, He is not the author of disaster and tribulation.

Paul is stating that the enemy will be crushed under their feet shortly is taken from Genesis 3:15 right after Adam transgressed against God and the world went into a fallen state.

Romans 16:21 *Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.*

Timotheus was mentioned over 23 times in the Bible. Lucius was mentioned also in Acts 13:1, Jason was also mention in Acts 17:5, and Sosipaster was mentioned in Acts 20:4.

Romans 16:22 *I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.*

This was the only mention of Tertius in the Bible.

Romans 16:23 *Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.*

Gaius was also mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:14 and 3 John 1:1-6. John referred to Gaius as the one he loved in the truth.

Erastus was the one to whom money was entrusted. He was the treasurer or chamberlain.

Quartus name was only mentioned here in scripture.

Romans 16:24 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Paul opens almost all his letters with speaking of grace and is now concluding this letter with grace. Paul was given the gospel of grace that is salvation being offered independent of works and God's divine ability do what we could not possibly do in our own strength.

Romans 16:25 *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*

Paul did not receive the gospel through Sunday school, nor was he taught it but received it directly from the resurrected Jesus (Gal 1:12, Eph 3:3). It takes the Holy Spirit to reveal to us that God accepts us independent of our performance. It takes no faith to try to please an angry God but it does require faith to believe God Himself became a man and made payment for the sins of the entire world than offers forgiveness through His Son.

The word establish in Greek is sterizo and means to set and strengthen. Through the Gospel and Jesus finished work we are strengthened and set.

Romans 16:26 *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—*

What was once kept secret in the Old Testament because man was spiritually dead and could not understand spiritual truth (1 Cor 2:14) has now been revealed. The Bible is broken up into progressive revelation and now the mystery of Christ in us is no longer a mystery. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed while the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

Obedience in the New Covenant is believing right not acting right. Under the Old Covenant, you do good and get good. Under grace we get good because He is good and we believe and put faith in Jesus' work not our own. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and does not set us free to sin, rather sets us free from sin.

Romans 16:27 *to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*

All the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Jesus (Col 2:3).

