

Commendations and Doxology – Romans 16



MEMORY VERSE: "...to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen." Romans 16:27

DAY 1 ROMANS 16:1-5 — Gratitude to Close Friends

1. How did Paul describe Phoebe? vv.1-2
2. What did Paul ask the Romans to do for Phoebe? What do you think each request might involve?
3. Describe Prisca and Aquila- their work, ministry, personalities and gifts.
4. What else do we know about Prisca (aka Priscilla) and Aquila?
Acts 18:1-3

Acts 18:18-19

Acts 18:24-26

5. Who is Epaenetus? How did Paul refer to him?

DAY 2 ROMANS 16:6-16 — Gratitude to Fellow Saints

6. What various descriptions of people make up the body of Christ? vv.6-16
7. What words do you hope people might use describe you?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Paul's final thoughts as he closed his letter to the church in Rome were of gratitude to God and to the individuals who walked alongside him in ministry. Notice that it takes the entire Christian community to serve those in need and every person has a role in this. You are meant to be one of those people!

8. What does it mean to “work hard in the Lord?”
Ephesians 4:16

Colossians 3:23-24

9. List some people you know who especially exhibit these traits in the body of Christ:
Hard Workers-

Risk Takers-

Motherly, Fatherly, Mentoring-

Generous-

10. Paul commended at least 26 people in this chapter. What does it tell us that most are never mentioned again in Scripture?

DAY 3 ROMANS 16:17-18 — Be Aware of Opposition

11. Who did Paul say to watch out for, and what did he say to do about them? v.17

12. What is true about such people’s motives and methods? v.18

13. How might they cause “divisions” and create “obstacles” contrary to sound doctrine?
1 Timothy 1:3-7

1 Timothy 6:3-5

14. Why do you think their methods could be successful?

15. In addition to avoiding them, how can we further guard against such people? 1 John 4:1-4

DAY 4 ROMANS 16:19-23 — Paul’s Heart for the Roman Christians

16. Why did Paul rejoice over the Roman believers? v.19

17. What did he want for these people he cared so much about? v.19

18. How you think one can be “wise to what is good and innocent as to what is evil?” Acts 17:11

19. What is promised about Satan’s fate? v.20

20. Paul sent greetings from those who were with him in Corinth. How did he describe them?

DAY 5 ROMANS 16:25-27 – Doxology

21. What is God able to do for believers and by what means does He do this? v.25

22. What is the mystery that was kept secret for long ages, but is now revealed? Ephesians 3:6

23. How has this revelation been made known? v. 26

24. For what purpose has the mystery been revealed to all nations? vv.26-27

25. Why do you think these final verses are an especially fitting ending for the book of Romans?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Paul loved people well and willingly served and sacrificed for anyone who needed the Lord because of his own gratitude to God. Can you make a list, as Paul did, of people who have influenced your walk with Christ? Remember them and take time to thank God, and those people, for loving you so well.

Romans 16

Commendations and Doxology

The apostle Paul was strong in his conviction about who Jesus is and thus who he is in Christ. He was sure of his calling by God- to preach to the Gentiles and unite Jews and Gentiles into one body to the glory of God. He also cared deeply about those who ministered alongside him. He won souls and made dear friends. Women were an important part of the community of saints. Paul called Phoebe a “sister” and a “servant,” and wanted her to be not only welcomed, but assisted in whatever she might need in Rome. In Greek, the word, “servant” is the feminine word for “deacon.” It is quite possible that Phoebe was a deaconess in the church in Corinth. Regardless, it appears as though she was the person who carried Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, thus his instructions to give her a warm welcome.

Paul’s beautiful list of mighty saints whom he loved and commended tells us much about the body of Christ. It takes all kinds of uniquely gifted people to do God’s work. Every one of the people Paul listed were beloved and valuable, and an important part of Paul’s ministry. Some were relatives or kinsmen, others were hard-working, had been imprisoned with him for their faith, or loved him as a mother or spiritual mentor. No one had to be like anyone else, but instead just be themselves and work together for God’s glory. Each one of us has people in our lives who do the same for us. Some help us grow in our understanding of God’s word. Others encourage us or even join us in the pain we suffer for our faith. It is vital that we focus on those who have helped us rather than on those who have hurt us. We must be thankful for those who bless us and let go of grumbling and frustration over those who do not.

Because Paul loved the church, he urged them to be on the look-out for dangerous people within the church. There will always be some who thrive on division and

turn people’s attention to issues not in keeping with the teachings of Christ and the Bible, and cause weak ones to re-evaluate what they know to be true. Evil people infiltrate the church and we must be aware of this. We must be wise- always learning and growing in our understanding the Bible so we are able to recognize lies from the enemy. We must be convinced of truth, so that we are not swayed by flattery and cheap substitutes of God’s Word. The truth will win out. Satan will eventually be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night for eternity. (Revelation 20:10) Meanwhile, we will be with God in glory for all eternity.

WALK IN TRUTH



What is needed in your life today? Perhaps you need better friends, or an appreciation of friends you already have who have walked alongside you in your journey with God. Maybe you need someone to help you understand the Scriptures and apply them to your life, or a person to encourage you as you work through the issues of life. We all need to understand our purpose of loving God and glorifying Him, furthering His kingdom by serving others and speaking truth to those who are lost and in need of Jesus Christ as Savior. We must live as the friends of Paul did- building believers up rather than causing them to stumble. We must also always remain vigilant in our faith, being open to the Holy Spirit moving us toward something or someone, but also recognizing when there is evil around which threatens to cause doubt and division. May you, like Paul, embrace the doxology and may they become a reality in your life, “the obedience of faith- to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.