

# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE *Romans*

2024

Lesson 19: *Greetings and Farewell* Romans 16:1-27

## A woman deacon

### ▲ Consider Phoebe's ministry position

#### ▼ She was a leader

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

#### ▼ She was a lifter

Romans 16:2 for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

### ▲ Consider Phoebe's mail mission for Paul

#### ▼ Paul's introduction of Phoebe

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe,

#### ▼ Paul's instructions about Phoebe

Romans 16:2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you,

## A worker directory

### ▲ Greetings to the Christian workers at Rome

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. 5 Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. 8 Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. 11 Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. 12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

- ▶ Paul wrote Romans from Corinth in 57AD during his three-month stay in Greece (Acts 20:1-3).
- ▶ While at Corinth, Paul enjoyed the hospitality of Gaius (Romans 16:23), an early Corinthian believer (1 Corinthians 1:14).
- ▶ Paul sent greetings to the Romans from Erastus, the Corinthian director of public works (Romans 16:23; 2 Timothy 4:20).
- ▶ The letter was transcribed from Paul's dictation by Tertius (Romans 16:22), who "wrote down this letter."
- ▶ And the letter was carried to Rome by Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea (Romans 16:1-2).

- ▶ We have no evidence that Paul had been to Rome prior to writing Romans.
- ▶ Paul was a Roman citizen (Acts 16:37-38; 22:25-29; 23:27), but had been born in Tarsus in Cilicia, a Roman province (Acts 21:39; 22:3).
- ▶ Though Paul had never seen the church at Rome, he knew many individuals in the church there.
- ▶ Romans 16 names 26 people along with their families who were at Rome, many of whom were closely connected to Paul.
- ▶ Paul's well-known friends and ministry partners Priscilla and Aquila were at Rome at the time of this writing (Romans 16:3).
- ▶ And Paul named others at Rome whom he called "my dear friend," (thrice) "my relatives," (twice) and "our fellow worker."
- ▶ Travel to and from Rome was common, and Paul must have known these people due to their travels and his travels.
- ▶ Paul would not get to Rome to see the church there until arriving as prisoner of the Roman Empire in 60AD (Acts 28:14-15).

### ▲ Greetings from the Christian workers at Corinth

Romans 16:21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives. 22 I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord. 23 Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

## A warning about division

### ▲ Be warned about divisive people

Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 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.

### ▲ Be wise about divisive people

Romans 16:19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

## A worship doxology

### ▲ A great mystery has been revealed in the gospel

Romans 16:25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—

Consider these four marvelous mysteries revealed in the gospel—

▲ Incarnation (1 Timothy 3:16) ▲ Inclusion (Ephesians 3:6; Romans 16:25; Romans 11:25) ▲ Indwelling (Colossians 1:27; Revelation 1:20; Ephesians 5:32) ▲ Immortality (1 Corinthians 15:51)

### ▲ A great Mind has been revealed in the gospel to the glory of God

Romans 16:27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

# Romans 16

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchræa. 2 I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. 5 Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. 6 Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. 8 Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. 11 Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. 12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 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. 19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives. 22 I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord. 23 Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, 26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him— 27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

## Aquila and Priscilla in the New Testament Record

From the New Testament record, we know the following about Aquila and Priscilla:

- (1) Aquila and Priscilla were once in Rome but, as Jews, they were ordered to leave Rome by the edict of Claudius in 49 AD (Acts 18:2);
- (2) Paul first met them in Corinth and worked with them in the tent-making trade in 50 AD (Acts 18:3);
- (3) They traveled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus in 52 AD (Acts 18:18);
- (4) They stayed at Ephesus when Paul departed (Acts 18:19);
- (5) They helped disciple Apollos when he came to Ephesus (Acts 18:26);
- (6) They were still in Ephesus when Paul returned to spend three years there from 52-55 AD (1 Corinthians 16:19);
- (7) They hosted a house church in Ephesus when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus in 55/56 AD (1 Corinthians 16:19);
- (8) They were in Rome when Paul wrote Romans from Corinth in 57 AD, where they hosted a house church (Romans 16:3-5);
- (9) They had returned to Ephesus by the time Paul wrote 2 Timothy in 62-65 AD (2 Timothy 4:19);
- (10) Priscilla's name, strangely but probably intentionally, is usually mentioned in the text before Aquila's name.

*Aquila and Priscilla* – 2 references (Acts 18:2; 1 Corinthians 16:19)

*Priscilla and Aquila* – 5 references (Acts 18:18; Acts 18:19; Acts 18:26; Romans 16:3; 2 Timothy 4:19)

