

Romans 16 - Concluding Remarks to the Church at Rome

SUMMARY

This chapter gives us Paul's parting words to the Roman Christians. It includes greetings and salutations to some 28 individuals by name, some warnings and admonitions, and then some final instructions.

v. 1 - The commendation of Phebe, a **servant** (not a deaconess!)

- Here is one of the **best examples in the entire Bible** where you can demonstrate the false doctrines which many people believe **if** you study your Bible by doing nothing but Greek word studies. - Contrast with God's ordained method of Bible study. - 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 2:13
- Review Bible qualifications for Bishops (Pastors) and Deacons. - 1 Tim. 3:1-13
- Most new bibles (exception is NKJV) change the word "**servant**" to "deaconess" because the Greek word used here is **diakanon**.
- Nowhere in the Bible are women ordained for leadership positions in the church or to usurp authority over men. - 1 Cor. 11:1-16; 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-12
- The same Greek word **diakanon** is translated "**minister**" in Rom. 15:8 and refers to **Jesus Christ** who was **not** a deacon, but rather a **minister**. - Mark 10:45
- Review who Jesus Christ is: 1) an Apostle and a High Priest - Heb. 3:1; the King of the Jews - Matt. 2:2; KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS - Rev. 19:16; the Word of God - Rev. 19:13; Jesus Christ also has many other titles of respect and honour: (Handout: "**Christ is All, and in All**")
- In Eph. 3:7, the Greek word "**diakonos**" is used in reference to the Apostle Paul, and is translated "**minister**".
- In 1 Tim. 3:8, the Greek word "**diakonos**" is translated "**deacon**".
- Not going **only** by the KJV is how you get ordained women in a church, e.g. deaconesses.
- All formal leadership and ordained offices in the church (e.g. elders, apostles, bishops/pastors, and deacons) are exclusively for men. **WHY?** - 1 Tim. 2:13-14

v. 2 - Phebe was to be received as a servant of the Lord.

- Phebe is recognized as having been a great helper ("**succourer**" - cf. 2 Cor. 6:2) of Paul and many other people.
- Define "**succour**" (6X in KJB) - 2 Sam. 8:5 (First Mention); 2 Sam. 18:3; Heb. 2:18 (to care for, protect, help, support, relieve, deliver from trouble, suffering, or difficulty) and also defined as "**assist**" here in Rom. 16:2
- Paul requested that Phebe be assisted in whatever business she was in need of.
- Women can have a great ministry through the local church, but they cannot (Biblically) be ordained or exercise leadership or authority over men.
- Bible regulations for women. - Prov. 14:1; Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Tim. 2:9-12, 5:14; Titus 2:3-5

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vv. 3-4 - First greeting → Priscilla and Aquila

- These two were Paul's dear helpers in the ministry. - 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19
- They were willing to risk their lives to save Paul. Every preacher and minister of the gospel needs church members who are willing to lay their heads down on the chopping block for him and get them chopped off.
- Are we supporting our pastor in this manner? Are we loyal to him like we should be? Do we stick up for him and defend him, as we ought? Do we regularly pray for him? Do we provide physically for him?

v. 5 - Bible definition of a local church.

- The local church is a group or assembly of like-minded believers, not the building (these people were meeting in a house).
- Here we have recorded the first person Paul led to Jesus Christ in Achaia, whose name was Epaenetus.

vv. 6-15 - Paul's greetings to more of the believers he knew at Rome.

- Mostly they were Gentiles but a few were Jews (kinsman).
- v.7 - Many Bible teachers today use this verse to "prove" the Body of Christ (the "church") **started before Paul**. QUESTION: How is this possible when the mystery of the "**one body**" was **first revealed** to Paul by Jesus Christ **after** His ascension? - Rom. 16:25-26; Gal 1:10-12; Col. 1:25-27; Eph. 3:1-9
- v. 7 - "**in Christ before me**" - Believers "**in Christ**" **before Paul** are **NOT** the same group as believers that are "**in the Body of Christ**". - Luke 12:32; Gal. 6:16; Acts 7:37-38; 1 Pet. 5:1-3
- In the Body of Christ "**there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek**", i.e. all people today are saved the same way by trusting D/B/R of Christ by faith alone without works. - Acts 15:1-11; Rom. 3:22, 10:12; Gal. 3:26

v. 16 - Two things here: 1) "**holy kiss**", i.e. greet each other warmly, 2) supposed "proof text" for the "Church of Christ" denomination.

- The way we greet one another and our visitors is of utmost importance; including how children act toward and greet visitors.
- The verse says "churches of Christ", which is a reference to a group of local churches similar to the phrase "**churches of Asia salute you.**" - 1 Cor. 16:19
- The denomination called the "Church of Christ" have picked up some of the false Roman Catholic doctrines, (e.g. water baptism required for salvation, good works for salvation, and falsely promote themselves as the only true church), exactly as the RCC, Mormon (LDS), JW, and many other religious groups also do.

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v. 17 - A warning against false doctrine and how to handle it when it comes in.

- Believers are to “**mark them**” (identify them / point them out) those who bring in false doctrine, false Bibles, or violate the rightly dividing of the scriptures.
- This is a time to speak up. - Eccl. 3:7b “**a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.**” - Job. 22:15; Phil. 3:17
- Here are eight KJV examples of marking people - Titus 1:12; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 4:10; 2 Peter 2:14-16; 3 John 9-10; Jude 10-11; Rev. 2:1-2
- “**them**” → both saved or lost are to be **REBUKED SHARPLY**. - Titus 1:10-14
- Believers are to “**avoid them**” → don’t fellowship, socialize, or spend any discretionary time with them. - 2 John 7-11
- Notice that divisions and offences are to be over **DOCTRINE**, not minor personal convictions or unimportant preferences!
- Jesus Christ is the great divider! - Matt. 10:34-36

v. 18 - Those promoting false doctrine are enemies of Jesus Christ. - 2 Peter 2:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:19-21; James 4:4

- “**own belly**” → (carnal lusts, sensual pleasures) their **motive** is **self**, e.g. pocketbook, personal gain, status, power, ego, recognition, fame, and popularity in seeking/coveting the praise of men. - Prov. 13:25; Phil. 3:17-19; 2 Tim. 3:1-5
- Characteristics of those serving their own bellies. - Titus 1:10-14 (lazy gluttons)
- Method: “**good words and fair speeches**”, i.e. use only positive messages that sound good and promote humanistic solutions. - 1 Cor. 2:4-5; 2 Cor. 10:10; 11:6
- While they will no doubt refer to the Bible, this is part of the deception. They will not give you just strait, hard, and plain Bible doctrine. - Titus 2:7-8
- God is the source “**all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**”. - Col. 2:1-4
- The best way to avoid being deceived by false doctrine is to know your Bible!
- Who gets deceived? “**the hearts of the simple**” “**simple**” - to know nothing → Prov. 9:13; opposite of prudent → Prov. 14:15; void of understanding - Prov. 7:7

v. 19 - Believers are to desire to be **wise** about doing good and **simple** (not experts) concerning evil.

- A believer’s obedience (or hypocrisy) will be made widely known. - Prov. 10:9
- While we are still in the flesh, the old man is still around and doing evil, which is our “default” when we **fail to purpose in our hearts** to do good. - Rom. 7:18-19
- To be wise about doing good, it requires Bible study, prayer, and discipline! - Rom. 12:9; 2 Tim. 2:15
- As believers, we need only consider one thing...is it right according to God and His Book? - Ps. 119:160

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v. 20 - Cross-reference - Gen. 3:14-15

- Here (v. 20) we have Jesus Christ **bruising the head of the serpent**, notice “**shortly**” (future).
- This was not fulfilled at Calvary. Calvary (the crucifixion) was when the serpent (Satan) bruised the heel of the woman’s seed (Jesus Christ), as in accordance with the will of God. - Isa. 53:10
- Gen. 3:15a is a future event which will be fulfilled at the 2nd Advent.
- Somehow Satan is going to be placed “**under your feet**”; probably this is a reference to Satan being cast into the bottomless pit during the Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth.
- Overall context of Psalm 68 is the 2nd Advent (vv. 7-9, 12, 14, 17, 23). Ps. 68:18-21 gives us the **doctrine of Jesus Christ bruising the head of Satan**. In v. 18, Jesus has been resurrected and ascended up to heaven after having led captivity captive (Eph. 4:8), so when v. 21 says “**God shall wound the head of his enemies**” it can only refer to Jesus Christ bruising Satan’s head (and those who follow Satan at the 2nd Advent. - cf. 2nd Advent contexts in Ps. 110:5-7; Hab. 3:13
- References in the Bible where the enemies of God die by head wounds are pictures of the death of the Antichrist. Examples: Abimelech - Judges 9:53-54 (millstone); Sisera - Judges 4:21 (nail through his temples); and Goliath - 1 Sam. 17:49-51 (stone in the forehead).

v. 21-24 - More salutations and greetings to the Christians in Rome.

- Notice in v. 22, Paul did not write this epistle...Paul dictated it and Tertius wrote it down.
- God’s process of **Inspiration & Preservation** of His word. - 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Jer. 36
- Inspiration is when a man writes down the words God has given by inspiration. - Jer. 31:15 cf. Matt. 2:17-18; Zech. 11:12-13 cf. Matt. 27:9
- Inspiration is God speaking (or breathing) His words through a man’s mouth.
- “**inspiration**” (2X in KJB) - 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Job 32:8
- **Preservation** - Ps. 12:6-7, 100:5, 119:89, 140, 152, 160; Prov. 30:5-6; Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; John 17:17; Rom. 10:17

v. 25-26 - The mystery of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

- The “**revelation of the mystery**”. - Gal. 1:11-12; Col. 1:25-27; Eph. 3:1-9
- The mystery which was revealed to Paul is the New Testament church as **one body** composed of both saved Jews and Gentiles - Eph. 2:11-18; Gal. 3:26-28
- The Law ended (as a system of salvation) and there was a transition in the book of Acts to salvation by grace through faith. - Acts 20:24
- The **ONE BODY** consisting of Jew and Gentile has its foundation in Jesus Christ. - Col. 2:14; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Gal. 3:24-27; Eph. 1:12-14

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- The complete doctrines concerning the Gentile Mysteries did not get revealed until Paul received them by revelation of Jesus Christ. - Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-11; 6:19; Col. 1:20-27, 2:2, 4:3
 - Summary and comparison of the gospels. - (Handout)
 - In v. 26b, notice the Gospel is something to be **obeyed**. - Rom. 10:16-17
 - To obey the gospel (“**the work of God**”) in the Age of Grace is to BELIEVE or TRUST in the D/B/R of Jesus Christ by faith alone. - cf. John 6:29
 - For the Age of Grace today, the answer is in this verse → “**obedience of faith**” (not the obedience of water baptism or other works of man). - Rom. 4:5; 5:1; Gal. 3:26
 - BE CAREFUL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DISPENSATION IS BEING ADDRESSED! - Two Examples: 2 Thess. 1:8 (Tribulation); 1 Pet. 4:17 (Tribulation)
- v. 27 - **Conclusion** - Give the wise God all glory through Jesus Christ forever!