

The Mission Team & Final Words

Romans 16 -- 12/20/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

<http://NLFJI.org/teachings>

Romans 16 - I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchræa, 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.

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. ⁵ Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epænetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. ⁶ Greet Mary, who labored much for us. 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.

⁸ Greet Amplias, my beloved in the LORD. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the LORD.

¹² Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the LORD. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the LORD. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the LORD, and his mother and mine. 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. The churches of Christ greet you. (1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12 - "holy kiss")

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

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

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.

Before we get too far ... look at verse **22** ... who is **Tertius**? Most folks think that Paul the apostle wrote this epistle to the Romans, but it seem he had some help. He employed an **amanuensis** - a person employed to write what another dictates or to copy what has been written by another; secretary. It is funny, but all kinds of commentaries use that funny word - **amanuensis** - instead of just saying a "secretary" who writes down what is dictated to him/her. For more on this, please, go to <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/16-22.htm>

Greetings, Encouragement & Salutations we find that Paul has a wide-spread, far flung Mission Team.

1. Paul wanted to continue the **relationship** other churches already started to have with the church in Rome ... personal ... not just principles ... but real people that Paul had experience with. He highlights certain individuals, married couples, etc. All have been essential in the Missionary Work of the Apostle Paul ... so he vouches for them. **He has a very large Missionary Team**

He starts with **Phoebe** – a servant of the church ... a helper ... she is to be received by the church in Rome. She's helped Paul. When she arrives, receive her as they would receive him. (vv 1-2)

Priscilla and Aquila - fellow Messianic Jews, Followers of Jesus, who've been of great help to Paul ... Paul's close fellow workers & fellow **tentmakers**, as well. **They were already there in Rome helping out the Roman church.** (vv 3-5) [ref. Acts 18; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19]

When Paul is saying → **Greet “so and so”** ... it would be like the way we say, today, **“say hi to Bobby for me ...”** So, these folks he is saying “Greet so & so” are **already there**, with the Roman church, helping out, and they have some sort of relationship with Paul and/or with his ministry, etc.

(“**holy hiss**” → for a deeper study, go to: <http://www.scripturesay.com/what-is-the-holy-kiss>)

Sending Greetings: there were those who were with Paul, where he was (Corinth), they also wanted to **send their Greetings** to the infant, new church in Rome, such as Timothy, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater [Acts 20:4] (my countrymen = Jews) [ref. Rom. 16:21-23] Paul had relationships with all kinds of people from all walks of life, including the city treasurer. **Why? Because** he got out and talked with people, sharing the **Gospel** as he went. **We will never meet people if we isolate ourselves.** **Also → Don’t be shy with the Gospel.**

Relationships between churches, was **through** fellow church workers, missionaries, ministers, etc. **It is personal and relational and it is based upon Jesus Christ, His Mission and His Holy Word**
Collaboration and Cooperation for Mission is Central to the Great Commission

2. **Warnings for all local churches:**

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **NOTE** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the **doctrine** which you learned, and avoid them. **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. (Romans 16:17-18)

10 Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, **11** knowing that such a person is perverted and sins, being self-condemned. (Titus 3:10-11)

This is very, very important. The Divisions are not based upon clothing or food, in particular, it is **Doctrinal Divisions**, Heresy, nice sounding man-made doctrines, twisting scripture, etc. It is demonic, deceptive, persuasive, pernicious, and flattering. Those with Itching Ears are Prime Target. Paul goes into much more depth regarding this in 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus. One of the main duties of Pastoral Elders is to keep and protect Doctrine (Ephesians 4:14, 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; **Acts 20:28-31**)

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **OVERSEERS**, to **SHEPHERD** the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **29** For I know this, that after my departure **SAVAGE WOLVES** will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking **PERVERSE** things, to **DRAW** away the disciples after themselves. **31** Therefore **WATCH**, and remember that for three years I did not cease to **WARN** everyone night and day with tears.

Always remember this truth: **Satan will seek to attack and destroy** that which is alive in Christ and dangerous to his kingdom... so beware and watchful.

3. **Encouragement → Infusing Courage into them** ... Romans 16:19-20; 25-27

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

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.**

Paul wanted them to know that their Calling, their Mission, their relationship to Christ and the other churches **all leads to Victory in Christ and Success in God’s eyes. Grace to Victory!!!**

ESTABLISH → to strengthen, establish, stand firm; to be resolute [στήριζω → stērīzō]

(<https://billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/sterizo>)

This applies to us today ... Starting with Surrendered Obedience unto Christ according to His Holy Word, the Bible .. Trusting in Christ and Working toward the Spread of the Gospel → the Preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Prophetic Scriptures ... **the Obedience to the Faith**

Victorious Christian Living for Christ and in Christ → to the Glory of God

→ Triumphant Courage to Spread the Gospel and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ.