

Greetings to Good and Godly People (*Part 2*)

Romans 16:1-16

Thought for the Day: God uses ordinary people, good and godly people, who are willing and available to glorify Himself and advance His kingdom.

As Paul brings his letter to the believers in Rome to a close, he first commends Phoebe, who is believed to have carried this letter to Rome. It is apparent that the church in Rome was made up of a broad cross-section of the community: Romans and Greeks, Jews and Gentiles, men and women, prisoners and prominent citizens. The church needs to be a welcoming place, not an exclusive club.

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

- Do people know without question that you are a Christian?
- Are you a servant of the church—a contributor, not just a consumer? Are you using your gifts, abilities, talents and resources to bless the church family?
- Can God trust you to faithfully carry His Word, the Gospel, to those around you?
- When people need help in the work of the Lord, can they count on you?

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.

- If you are married, do you and your spouse work together as partners in ministry?
- Do you support others who are in ministry, including financial support?
- Are you willing to risk your life for the sake of the ministry?
- Are you willing to make your home and resources available to help others know the Lord and grow in their relationship with Him?

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.

- Mary worked to the point of exhaustion in her service to the church family.
- This is her eternal legacy! What will your legacy be?
 - 1) Revelation 20:12 – “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”
 - 2) Revelation 20:15 – “If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”
 - 3) The Book of Life will determine your eternal destiny; the other books will determine your eternal reward.
- Our works are being recorded. We are writing our own eternal legacy today.

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.

- What price are you willing to pay in your service for the Lord? Imprisonment?

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.

- 1 Peter 1:6-7 – God has at least two purposes for our trials: 1) To refine our faith; and 2) To prove the genuineness of our faith.
- Trials are a necessary part of our spiritual development.
- Will you be tested and approved or tested and disqualified?

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.

- It's possible that Rufus was the son of Simon of Cyrene, who was forced to carry Jesus' cross on the way to Calvary. (Cp. Mark 15:21)
- Rufus' mother is an example and challenge, not only to be a mother for your own children, but for others who are in need.

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.

If the Lord tarries, what will your legacy be to the next generation of Christians?

How will you be remembered?