

# The Book of Romans

## VII. Paul *Dictates* Closing **Personal Comments** and **Greetings** to the **Roman Believers** (15:13-16:27)

A. He *Expresses* **Personal Comments** concerning **His Calling** and **Ministry** (15:14-33)

B. He *Extends* **Personal Greetings** to some **Specific Believers** there (16:1-16)

1. *Commending* sister **Phoebe** for her **Service** (16:1-2)

16 I **commend** to you our **sister Phoebe**,  
who is a **servant** of the **church** which is at **Cenchrea**;

<sup>2</sup> that you **receive her** *in the Lord* in a manner **worthy** of the **saints**,  
and that you **help her** in whatever matter she may have **need** of you;  
for she herself has also been a **helper of many**, and of **myself** as well.

2. *Conveying* **Greetings** to **Prisca and Aquila**, and their **house Church** (16:3-5a)

<sup>3</sup> Greet **Prisca** and **Aquila**, my **fellow workers** *in* **Messiah Jesus**,  
<sup>4</sup> who for **my life** **risks** their **own necks**,  
to whom not only do I give **thanks**,  
but also **all** the **churches** of the **Gentiles**;

<sup>5</sup> also *greet* the **church** that is in **their house**

3. *Communicating* **Greetings** to **Epaenetus, Mary, Andronicus**, and **Junias** (16:5b-7)

Greet **Epaenetus**, **my beloved**,  
who is the **first convert** to **Messiah** from **Asia**.

<sup>6</sup> Greet **Mary**, who has **worked hard** for you.

<sup>7</sup> Greet **Andronicus and Junias**,  
**my kinsmen** and **my fellow prisoners**,  
who are **outstanding** among the **apostles**,  
who also were ***in* Messiah** before me.

4. **Continuing Greetings** to other beloved Servants, Saints, and Households (16:8-16)

<sup>8</sup> Greet **Ampliatius**, *my beloved* in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Greet **Urbanus**, our fellow worker *in* Messiah, and **Stachys** *my beloved*.

<sup>10</sup> Greet **Apelles**, the approved in Messiah. Greet **those** who are of the *household* of **Aristobulus**.

<sup>11</sup> Greet **Herodion**, my *kinsman*.

Greet those of the *household* of **Narcissus**, who are **in the Lord**.

<sup>12</sup> Greet **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**, workers *in* the Lord.

Greet **Persis** the *beloved*, who has worked hard *in* the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Greet **Rufus**, a choice man *in* the Lord, also his mother and *mine*.

<sup>14</sup> Greet **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermes**, **Patrobas**, **Hermas** and the **brethren** with them.

<sup>15</sup> Greet **Philologus** and **Julia**, **Nereus** and his sister, and **Olympas**, and **all the saints** who are with them.

<sup>16</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches** of Messiah greet you.

Observations for Application  
**Paul's Greetings** to fellow **Believers**,  
reveal a "People Oriented" Leadership Style

Key Observations →

- A. Although **Rabbi Paul** had a **ministry calling** by **God** to oversee the *entire* body of **Gentile believers** (15:15-16), he still took time to recognize the important **personal contributions** of individual believers.
- B. Please note that **Paul** had high regard and **appreciation** for the *vital* contributions of women among the congregations. In our text tonight at least **eight women** are mentioned, many of whom had **important impact** in his **own personal ministry**.

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe,

who is a **servant** of the **church** which is at **Cenchrea**;  
<sup>2</sup> that you **receive her** in the **Lord** in a manner **worthy** of the **saints**,  
and that you **help her** in whatever matter she may have **need** of you;  
for **she herself** has also been a **helper of many**,  
and of **myself** as well (16:1-2).

Greet **Prisca**...(16:3a)

Greet **Mary**, who has **worked hard** for you (16:6).

Greet **Tryphaena** and **Tryphosa**, **workers** in the **Lord** (16:12).

Greet **Rufus**,..also **his mother** and **mine** (16:13).

- C. Paul expressed **thankfulness** to those who **risks their lives** and **suffered** personally on **his behalf**, as well as for the sake of the **ministry**.

<sup>3</sup> Greet **Prisca** and **Aquila**,..

<sup>4</sup> who for **my life** **risks** their **own necks**,  
to whom not only do I **give thanks**,  
but also **all** the **churches** of the **Gentiles**; (16:3-4)

<sup>7</sup> Greet **Andronicus** and **Junias**,  
**my kinsmen** and **my fellow prisoners**, (16:7a)

- D. Paul **acknowledged**, and **expressed appreciation** several times in this text, to **specific believers** who “**worked hard**” as **fellow servants** in the **ministry** of the **Messiah** (see 16:2, 6, 9, 12).
- E. Paul expressed **openly**, in these **greetings**, his **personal love** for his **fellow brothers** and **sisters** who have **served faithfully** with him **in the Lord**.

Greet **Epaenetus**, **my beloved**,  
who is the **first convert** to **Messiah** from **Asia** (16:5).

Greet **Ampliatius**, **my beloved** in the Lord...  
and **Stachys** **my beloved** (16:8, 9a).

Greet **Persis** the **beloved**,...(16:12:b)

- F. Paul **acknowledged** those who were his “**kinsmen**,” and were most likely **fellow Jewish believers in the Lord** (16:7a, 11a). He also **greeted** and **honored** those who had **proven** themselves as “**outstanding**” and “**choice**” among the believers (16:7b, 13a).
- G. **Rabbi Paul**, **understanding** the importance of “**spiritual family**,” and the **vital contributions** of **each believer** who is **serving**, **exhorts** the **Roman believers** to **greet one another** with a **warm** and **holy embrace** (16:16).

## Closing Thought

If God saw fit to **record** in *inspired* scripture,  
Paul's personal and specific comments of *appreciation*,  
*gratitude*, and *love* for the life and deeds of his  
fellow saints and servants *in the Lord* (16:1-16);

do you not think that, as servants of Messiah,  
*our individual* "works of *faith*, labors of *love*,  
and steadfastness of *hope*,  
as well as our specific *sufferings* and *trials* (I Thess. 1:2-3, 6),  
are also "written" down, and will one day  
be acknowledged in heavenly realms ?

-----  
You (O God) have taken *account* of my wanderings;  
Put my tears in Your bottle.  
Are *they* not in Your book? (Psalm 56:8)

"A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him;  
**thousands** upon **thousands** were attending Him,  
and **myriads** upon **myriads** were standing before Him;  
the **court sat**, and the books were **opened**..." (Daniel 7:10)

Then **those** who *feared* the LORD spoke to one another,  
and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*,  
and a book of remembrance was written before Him  
for those who *fear* the LORD and who *esteem* His name. (Malachi 3:16)

And He (Messiah) said to them...  
"Nevertheless do **not rejoice** in this,  
that the **spirits** are **subject** to you,  
but **rejoice** that **your names** are recorded *in heaven*."  
(Luke 10:18a, 20)

For **we** must **all appear** before the **judgment seat of Messiah**,  
so that **each one** may be **recompensed** for his deeds in the **body**,  
according to what **he** has **done**, whether **good or bad**.  
(II Corinthians 5:10)