

“Paul’s Greetings”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: Christian greeting is about genuinely expressing love, appreciation, and fellowship to one another in Christ.

If you’ve ever read through the Book of First Chronicles, you’ve probably been tempted to just skip over all those names – especially the unpronounceable ones! Yet the Holy Spirit included those names for a reason. Would we want God to skip over our names in the Last Day when the book of life is opened? Slowing down to read the names written in the Scriptures is a good discipline, demonstrates the value of someone else’s contribution, and honors the Lord who inspired the writers to include them. The list we find here is no different. Here, Paul sends his greetings to these individuals: Some men, some women, some with extended recognition, others with simply a mention. But these names are included in Scripture as Paul’s recognition of their help and contribution to his life and ministry.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 16:1-16** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “Paul’s Greetings.”

DIG IN

1. A Thankful Introduction (Romans 16:1-2)

How does Paul describe Phoebe? What can we learn about her from these verses?

In what ways would the church in Rome have welcomed Phoebe “in a way worthy of the saints?”

2. A series of Individual Greetings (Romans 16:3-15)

What does Paul say about Prisca and Aquila (vv. 3-5a)? What else do we know about them (Acts 18)?

Why might it be significant that Paul calls Epaenetus (v. 5b), Ampliatus (v. 8), Stachys (v. 9), and Persis (v. 12), as “Beloved”?

What stands out to you about the other names mentioned in this long list? In what varied ways did they serve Christ in the church?

Why is it important to recognize the service of the saints in the church?

3. A Sign of Christian Fellowship (Romans 16:16)

What is the significance of the “holy kiss” (v. 16)?

What might that welcome look like in the 21st century church in America?

In what ways should the members of the Body of Christ know one another more?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?