

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 16

Lesson 19

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What did you learn from last week's lesson or lecture to help make you an effective minister of Jesus Christ?

2. Proverbs 18:1 states that a person *who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment*. As believers in Jesus, we need the family of God! Only in the community of believers can we truly discover the full personage of God and His blessings. *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!* (Psalm 133:1) Community also provides us with accountability, protection from false doctrine, and a sense of belonging. Romans 16 makes it clear that Paul appreciated and realized the need for other believers. Not only did Paul greet twenty-six people by name, he also mentioned nine of his traveling companions.

In this chapter Paul provided a brief insight into his personal relationships with many of the believers in Rome; he warned the believers against those who would bring division to the church; he named his companions; and he concluded his epistle with a blessing. Use the sections below to comment on the blessings of the community of Christ:

- a. Romans 16:1-2
 - b. Romans 16:3-16
 - c. Romans 16:17-24
 - d. Romans 16:25-27
3. Ask the Lord to give you a greater appreciation for the family of God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
Romans 16:24

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 16:1-2

1. As he closed his letter to the Romans, Paul greeted and gave direction concerning several individual believers. His first commendation was to a woman named Phoebe. The Greek word for *commend* means *to approve or stand with*. What does this convey about Paul's estimation of *Phoebe*?
2. From Romans 16:1b notice how Paul described Phoebe. The Greek word for *servant* is *diakonos*, which means that she was a *deaconess* from the *church in Cenchrea*. What do you find interesting about this?
3. Use Romans 16:2a to comment on the things Paul desired the Romans to do for Phoebe:
 - a.
 - b.
 - (1) How would you treat Phoebe if she came to your church today?
 - (a) What does this convey to you about your regard for other believers?
4. According to Romans 16:2b, why did Paul direct the Romans to *assist* Phoebe?
 - a. The Greek word for *helper* is *prostatis*, which means *patroness, caring for the affairs of others and aiding them with her resources*. How does this explain Phoebe's contribution?
5. Bible commentators believe that Phoebe delivered Paul's letter to the Romans. Why is this worth noting?
 - a. What do you admire most about *Phoebe*?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 16:3–16

1. After commending Phoebe to the Romans, Paul acknowledged his dear friends Priscilla and Aquila. From Romans 16:3–5 what do you learn about:
 - a. Paul’s relationship to this couple (verse 3)
 - b. What they did for Paul (verse 4)
 - c. Their ministry (verses 4–5a)
2. What more do you learn about Priscilla and Aquila from:
 - a. Acts 18:1–3
 - b. Acts 18:24–26

(1) What do you find most noteworthy about Priscilla and Aquila?

3. From the list in Romans 16:5b–15, record Paul’s comments about:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. <i>Epaenetus</i> | i. <i>Herodion</i> |
| b. <i>Mary</i> | j. <i>Narcissus</i> |
| c. <i>Andronicus and Junia</i> | k. <i>Tryphena and Tryphosa</i> |
| d. <i>Amplias</i> | l. <i>Persis</i> |
| e. <i>Urbanus</i> | m. <i>Rufus</i> |
| f. <i>Stachys</i> | n. <i>Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, and Hermes</i> |
| g. <i>Apelles</i> | o. <i>Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas</i> |
| h. <i>Aristobulus</i> | |

(1) Which of these believers would you have liked to spend time with?

(2) How does Romans 16:16 underscore Paul’s affection for these believers?

4. Why do you think Paul took the time to commend these believers individually?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 16:17-24

1. As Paul concluded his letter to the Romans, he felt it necessary to warn them of potential dangers. Use Romans 16:17-18 to paint a picture of those the *brethren* were to *avoid*.
 - a. Share some ways to safeguard against such people.

2. From Romans 16:19 answer the following:
 - a. What had *become known* about the Roman believers?

 - b. Romans 16:19b (NLT) says, *I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong*. How would this have helped the Romans deal with *those who cause divisions and offenses*? See also Matthew 10:16.

3. Use Romans 16:20a to fill in the blanks:

And the _____ will _____ under your _____.

 - a. How does this truth minister to you?

 - b. According to Romans 16:20b, what power sustains us until that time?

4. In Romans 16:21-23 Paul mentioned his companions. What do you learn about:
 - a. *Timothy*
 - b. *Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater*
 - c. *Tertius*
 - d. *Gaius*
 - e. *Erastus*
 - f. *Quartus*

(1) Why do you think Paul mentioned these men?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 16:25–27

1. In Romans 16:25–27 Paul concluded this great epistle with a doxology or expression of praise to God. Use this doxology to note and comment on the ways God *is able to establish* each believer:
 - a. *According to ...* (verse 25a)
 - b. *According to ...* (verse 25b)
 - c. *According to ...* (verse 26b)

(1) What does it mean to you to know that God *is able to establish* you? See also 1 Peter 5:10.
2. How did Paul describe the *mystery* of God's *revelation* through Jesus Christ (verses 25b–26a)?
 - a. Link this with the following Scriptures and share your thoughts:
 - (1) Ephesians 3:3–6
 - (2) Colossians 1:26–27
 - (3) 1 Timothy 3:16
3. Record Paul's final statement of praise in Romans 16:27.
 - a. Connect his insight with:
 - (1) Colossians 2:3
 - (2) Jude 25
4. As you reflect on your study today, take a moment to write your own doxology.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week record a thought or insight you gleaned about:
 - a. Fellow believers (Romans 16:1-16)
 - b. Foes (Romans 16:17-18, 20)
 - c. Friends (Romans 16:21-23)
 - d. Felicitations (Romans 16:24-27)
2. As we see in Romans 16, Paul had many wonderful relationships with other believers who blessed and encouraged him spiritually. Take a moment to highlight and write a word of commendation about three important people in your life.

*Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel
and the preaching of Jesus.*

Romans 16:25