

## **Lesson 35 – Romans 16:1-16**

Paul is closing out his letter to the church in Rome. In the last portion of chapter 15 he informed them of his intention to deliver help to the church in Jerusalem, but then he was headed for Spain with plans to visit with the Romans on his way through. In this he requested prayer because he knew things might get dicey in Jerusalem, and he truly longed to see the saints of Rome.

### **Paul sends a commendation**

As Paul reaches the end of his writing, his pen is guided by the Holy Spirit to recommend Phoebe as a person to be favored and highly regarded.

- \* She is from Cenchreae, a little town just across the isthmus on the Aegean Sea side. (Corinth was on the Ionian Sea side.)
- \* She is to be welcomed with a warmth befitting a dear sister.
- \* She is to be assisted in whatever necessary because she has helped many herself.

### **Paul sends many greetings**

1. Prisca and Aquila – Paul’s use of Prisca rather than her full name indicates a familial affection. This couple is quite remarkable for their service to the Lord in the founding of the early church during its infancy.
2. The church that was meeting in the home of Priscilla and Aquila.
3. The first Asian convert, beloved Epaenetus
4. Mary, an advocate for the Romans
5. Andronicus and Junia, a couple who worked and spent time in prison with Paul. They had a good testimony with all of the apostles, having trusted Christ before even Paul.
6. Ampliatus, a beloved brother in Christ.
7. Urbanus, a fellow worker in Christ.
8. Stachys, another beloved brother in Christ.
9. Apelles, one whose assumed faithfulness made him an approved worker of Christ.
10. The family of Aristobulus. (We don’t know the basis or reason for this greeting. Josephus mentions an Aristobulus in his writings who was the grandson of Herod the Great and was brother to Agrippa I. He is recorded as never holding public office, and may well have been closely watched by his family lest he maneuvered for prominence.)
11. Herodian, a relative (presumably by blood) of Paul.

12. The believers of the family of Narcissus.
13. Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers of the Lord.
14. Persis, one who was loved and who labored hard for the Lord.
15. Rufus, one who is elect, and his mother who mothered Paul too.
16. A generic greeting to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the other brothers living with them.
17. A generic greeting to Philologus, Julia, Nereus, as well as his sister, Olympas, and the saints with them. (It is possible that Paul has herein identified two separate congregations in Rome.)
18. One another with a gesture of Christ-like love, “a holy kiss.” This kiss, though intimate, isn’t sensual, but spiritual.
19. All churches of Christ (presumably those with a knowledge of Paul’s writing) say howdy.