

A PORTRAIT OF CHRISTIANS AT ROME

Romans 16:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

A. The church at Rome was a good church

- 1) They were obedient to the Lord 16:19
- 2) God was their protector 16:20

B. There were others in Rome who were faithful Christians

- 1) They had come to Rome on different missions
- 2) Some at Paul's directions
- 3) Some as an act of providence

I. Sister Phoebe, A Servant verse 1 - 3

A. *"I commend unto you Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is a Cenchrea;"*

- 1) *"commend"* = συνιστημ = "to introduce to one's acquaintance with a favorable notice"
- 2) *"servant"* = διακονος = "a hasty messenger"

B. *"That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatever business she hath need of you:"*

- 1) *"receive"* = προσδεχομαι = "to accept to one's self", "to receive kindly", "to entertain as host"
- 2) *"becometh"* = αξιωως = "worthily", "deservedly"
- 3) *"assist"* = παριστημι = "to stand by or near so as to defend or help"
- 4) *"business"* = πραγμα = "that which has been done", "a deed", "the thing done", "a matter"

C. *"for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also"*

- 1) *"succourer"* = προστατις = "a patroness", "a helper", "one who gives protection"
- 2) *"of many"* = πολλων



- 3) She had helped Paul and was the messenger to bring the letter to Rome.

II. Priscilla And Aquila, Helpers verse 3, 4, 5a

A. *"Great Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus"*  
vs. 3

- 1) "Great" = ἀσπαζομαι = "to draw to one's self", "to embrace", Spoken of those who meet and separate.
- 2) "helpers" = συνεργος = "working together in conjunction with"

B. *"who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles."* vs. 4

- 1) "laid down" = υποτιθημι = "to lay under as the neck under the executioner's axe"
- 2) "Who risked their own lives to save mine"
- 3) They were the objects of thanksgiving

C. *"Likewise greet the church that is in their house."* vs. 5a

- 1) "My greetings, also, to the congregation which meets in their house."
- 2) "church" = εκκλησια
- 3) *I Corinthians 16:19*
- 4) *Acts 18:26*
- 5) The meeting place of the early churches was the individuals home. *Acts*

III. A Portrait Of The Church verse 5b - 16

A. Epaenetus, the example 5b

- 1) "first fruits" = ἀπαρχη = "an offering of first fruits; the first consecrated to God"
- 2) "The first man in Roman Asia to believe in Christ" Mon.

- B. Mary, the labourer *vs. 6*
- 1) "bestow labor" = κοπιῶ = "to be tired, grow weary, fatigued, spent with labour"
  - 2) "Who has toiled so hard for you" *Wms*
- C. Andronicus and Junia, prisoners *vs. 7*
- 1) "My countrymen and once my fellow prisoners" *TENT*
  - 2) "of note" = ἐπισημος = "having a mark upon", In a good sense, distinguished.
  - 3) "And who were in [εἰν] Christ before [πρὸ] me"
  - 4) How to get in Christ! *Eph. 1:12-13*
- D. Those beloved in the Lord *vs. 8*
- 1) "beloved" = ἀγαπητος = "beloved" Forceful - *vs. 9b*
  - 2) Amplias and Stachys
- E. Urbane, the helper *vs. 9*
- 1) "helper" = συνεργος = "working together"
  - 2) "Urbanus our fellow-worker in Christ" *ASV*
- F. Apelles, the approved *vs. 10*
- 1) "approved" = δοκιμος = "assayed", "tested"
  - 2) "Tested and tried in Christ" *Mon*
- G. Salutations and greetings
- 1) The household of Aristobulus *vs. 10b*
  - 2) Herodion, my fellow countryman *vs. 11*
  - 3) Narcissus and his household
- H. Laborers in the Lord *vs. 12*
- 1) "Labor" = κοπος = "wearisome effort"
  - 2) "Who work hard in the Lord" *Mof.*
  - 3) "Who has toiled terribly in the Lord's services" *Mon.*

I. Rufus, chosen in the Lord vs. 13

- 1) "chosen" = εκλεκτος = "chosen out", "preferred", "selected out"
- 2) "That choice Christian, Rufus" Mof.

J. More salutations vs. 14-15

- 1) "salute" = ασπάζομαι = "to draw to one's self", hence, "to embrace", "to greet"
- 2) *verse 14, 15*
- 3) *"and the brethren which are with them"*

K. Salute one another vs. 16

- 1) "Holy" = αγιος = "to have veneration and awe"
- 2) "Greet one another with a consecrated or reverential kiss"
- 3) "kiss" = φιλημα = "a love token", especially as given in greeting.
- 4) The meeting and departing of humans is an important part of a relationship.

L. "The churches of Christ salute you."

- 1) "All Christ's assemblies send you greeting"
- 2) This phrase shows possession

