

PAUL'S LOVE FOR THE SAINTS

--ROMANS 16:1-24--

INTRODUCTION:

As we come to the final chapter of Romans Paul demonstrates his love for the saints in Rome. He shows his love through the commendation for a sister in Christ traveling to Rome, through his salutations to those he knows in Rome, through a final exhortation to those in Rome, cautioning them to not be swept away by false teachers, and finally ending with salutations from those who are with him in Corinth.

I. COMMENDATION (Romans 16:1-2)

- a. Paul begins this final chapter of his letter to the church in Rome with a _____ for a woman named Phoebe.
- b. Paul commends her to the church in Rome for not only what she had done in her own church but also for the important _____ she was about to carry out for the Lord.
- c. Paul commends Phoebe to the church in three different ways, he commends her as a _____ in Christ, as a _____ and as a _____ of many, including Paul himself.
- d. When we come to faith in Christ, we are adopted into God's _____, and we become brothers and sisters in Christ.
- e. Paul next commends Phoebe to the church in Rome as a _____ of her home church in Cenchræa. (1 Timothy 3:11)
- f. Paul also asked the church members to help her in whatever _____ she may have need of you.
- g. This word translated "_____" was commonly used in Greek to indicate a person who was a patron.

II. SALUTATIONS FROM PAUL (Romans 16:3-16)

- a. After commending Phoebe to them Paul begins to demonstrate his _____ and affection for a large number of beloved friends and fellow believers.

- b. He first _____ Prisca and Aquila, a husband and wife who Paul was well acquainted with, they like Paul were tentmakers.
- c. Paul next greets Epænetus who was the first _____ to Christ in Asia mostly likely under the ministry of Paul.
- d. Paul greets _____ women in this passage often referring to their service for the Lord.
- e. Paul greeted _____ men by name.
 - f. Paul ends his salutations telling them to greet one another with a holy _____ and giving them greetings from all the churches of Christ.

III. EXHORTATION (Romans 16:17-20)

- a. Genuine _____ for others will demonstrate itself by warning the one you love so they are not harmed. (1 Corinthians 13:6)
- b. Paul is telling the mature believers in the church to keep an _____, the phrase means to scrutinize intensely, on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the apostolic teaching which they had received and learned. (Titus 3:9; 2 Timothy 2:23)
- c. Paul then goes on to _____ who these people are and give two reasons to turn away from them. (Jude 12-13)
- d. These false teachers should be avoided because the result of their teaching is always _____.
- e. Paul then commends the believers in Rome for their _____ which has been reported to all.
- f. Paul reminds the believers in Rome that this _____ with evil will not go on indefinitely.

IV. SALUTATIONS OF OTHERS (Romans 16:21-24)

- a. Paul ends this passage with _____ to the church in Rome from those who are with him in Corinth.
- b. The first to send greetings is _____, Paul son in the faith and faithful companion in his travels.

- c. Paul then sends greeting from Gaius who is Paul's _____ in Corinth, Paul is staying in his house during his time there.
- d. In verse 24 we come to another _____ which is identical to the one that Paul had just given in verse 20.

CONCLUSION:

In this closing chapter of Romans Paul focuses in on his relationship to other Christians and he does this by demonstrating the love that he had told them each to have for one another. He demonstrates his love in four ways. First, he lovingly and warmly commends to them a dear lady that is a sister in Christ from the church in Cenchrea. He commends her to them because she is bearing the letter that Paul has just written to them. Second, he sends greetings to many that he knows in the church, those to whom he has ministered, those who have ministered to him, and those he has ministered alongside. Third, Paul demonstrates his love for his brothers and sisters by warning them of danger, exhorting them to keep watch for false teachers who will try to infiltrate the church and deceive and lead some astray. He reminds them that these evil infiltrators are instruments of Satan, and this battle for the souls of men will not go on forever. The God of peace will crush Satan under the feet of His saints, and we will forever be at peace in the house of our heavenly Father and our Lord. Until that time Paul reminds us that we have the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to sustain us. Fourth, Paul demonstrated his love by including in his letter the greetings of those that were with him in Corinth.

As believers we can demonstrate our love for other believers in much the same way that Paul did. Follow his example of commending those who have proven themselves to the church, pray for those who you know in the church and show your concern for them. Watch and warn others of spiritual danger, measure all teaching through the lens of Scripture and turn away from any whose teaching undermines or challenges the truth of God's Word. Always be on the lookout to encourage another believer by words or actions, being a servant and a helper in the church.