

Believers Together: Discovering the Word – November 30, 2022

Personal Greetings—Romans 16:1–27

Topics: Appreciation, Friendship, God, Praise, Serving

Open It

1. How valuable is a letter of thanks and appreciation?

Romans 16:1–27 (ESV)

¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae,

²that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

³Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

⁴who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well.

⁵Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

⁶Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

⁸Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

⁹Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

¹⁰Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus.

¹¹Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus.

¹²Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.

¹³Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.

¹⁵Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

¹⁶Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

¹⁷I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

¹⁸For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

¹⁹For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

²⁰The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²¹Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

²²I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Explore It

2. What did Paul ask the Roman church to do for Phoebe? (16:1–2)
3. What risks did Priscilla and Aquila take? (16:3–4)
4. What special distinction did Epenetus hold? (16:5)
5. For what did Paul commend Mary? (16:6)
6. What experiences did Andronicus and Junias share with Paul? (16:7)
7. What qualities did Paul recognize in Apelles? (16:10)
8. Why did Paul praise Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis? (16:12)
9. What greeting did Paul suggest the church share? (16:16)
10. What should we do about people who cause division among Christians? (16:17–18)
11. What encouragement did Paul give the people in their struggle with evil in the world? (16:19–20)
12. Who actually wrote down this letter for Paul? (16:22)
13. With whom had Paul been living? (16:23)
14. What did Paul say about the gospel? (16:25–27)

Get It

15. What is a meaningful compliment a Christian could give to another believer?
16. For what would you like to be remembered?
17. In what areas of life should Christians take risks for God, as Priscilla and Aquila did?
18. What does our level of generosity reveal about our understanding of God?
19. What causes division in churches and between Christians today?

Apply It

20. To what fellow workers in the Lord's service do you want to express your appreciation? How?