

BOOK OF ROMANS
WHO REALLY MATTERS IN LIFE?
ROMANS 16:1-27

Introduction

As we come to this final chapter in the **BOOK OF ROMANS**, we see a long list of names of **PEOPLE**. **PAUL** personally greets at least 26 people by name in this chapter.

So we get to this part in the **SCRIPTURE** and some may ponder the significance of what we read here. Why should we care about **PAUL GREETING** some of his friends? Why not just skip this Chapter altogether? But these **PEOPLE** that **PAUL** mentions can **TEACH** us a lot about **WHO MATTERS IN LIFE!**

Let's look at this list and see what we can learn from it! We are going to see **WHO REALLY MATTERS IN LIFE** by looking at:
In Life There Are Friends To Commend...Friends to Greet...Foes to Avoid!

- I. IN LIFE THERE ARE FRIENDS TO COMMEND! (PHEBE)**
The first person that **PAUL** mentions is **PHEBE**. Now understand that we don't know that much about **PHEBE**.

She apparently was on her way to visit **ROME**, so **PAUL** took the opportunity to use her to hand deliver this letter, which was a common thing to do.

Look at what **PAUL** does tell us about her:

- A. *I Commend Unto You Phebe... (Vs. 1)***
PHEBE had been such one as **PAUL** had no problem giving her a **COMMENDATION** (or **RECOMMENDATION**.)
- B. *...Our Sister... (Vs. 1)***
She was a **MEMBER** of the **HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH!**
A part of **THE FAMILY OF GOD!** She had been **BORN AGAIN INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD** making her a **DEAR SISTER IN CHRIST!** Not only to **PAUL**, but to the **ROMAN BELIEVERS** as well!

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- C. *...Which Is A Servant Of The Church At Cenchrrea. (Vs. 1)***
A **SERVANT** (or *deaconess*) here is not referring to an **OFFICE**, but rather to a **LIFESTYLE**.

What **PAUL** is stressing here is that she was known as **ONE WHO SERVES!** She obviously had a huge heart and she was **INVOLVED IN MINISTRY** in her **CHURCH!**

- D. *...She Hath Been A Succourer Of Many, And Of Myself Also. (Vs. 2)***
"Succourer" means *"an assistant or a helper."*

- E. Paul's Requests. (Vs. 2)**
PAUL wanted the **CHURCH** at **ROME** to do more than just **GREET PHEBE** and send her on her way.
- Receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints. . .*
 - Assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you. . .*

IN LIFE THERE ARE FRIENDS TO COMMEND.

II. IN LIFE THERE ARE FRIENDS TO GREET.

- A. Priscilla And Aquila. (Vs. 3 and 4)**
We first hear of **PRISCILLA** and **AQUILA** in the book of **Acts 18:1-17**.

When **PAUL** first met them they were in **CORINTH** because all the **JEWS** had been asked to leave **ROME** at that time. They were in the same trade as **PAUL** (*tentmakers*) and allowed **PAUL** to stay with them for a year and a half and work with them while he preached in the area.

Here in *verse 3*, **PAUL** calls them his *"helpers in Christ Jesus."* The word *"helpers"* means *"co-laborers."*

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Also, **PAUL** said that they had put their own necks on the line for him! (*Vs. 4*)

Obviously, **PAUL** was **GRATEFUL** for that! But the **GENTILE CHURCHES** that **PAUL** helped to **ESTABLISH** and **MINISTER TO** were also **GRATEFUL!**

PRISCILLA and **AQUILA** also held **CHURCH** in their **HOUSE** and **PAUL** sent his **GREETING** to this **ASSEMBLY** also. (*Vs 5a*)

B. Others Mentioned Briefly:

1. **Epaentus. (Vs 5b)**
EPAENETUS was the first **CONVERT** in **ACHAIA!** There is always something special about that first **CONVERT!**
2. **Mary. (Vs 6)**
"Who bestowed much labour on us."
3. **Andronicus and Junia. (Vs 7)**
 - a. My Kinsmen.
 - b. My Fellowprisoners.
 - c. Who Are Of Note Among The Apostles.
 - d. Who Were In Christ Before Me.
4. **Amplias. (Vs. 8)**
"...my beloved in the Lord."
5. **Urbane. (Vs. 9a)**
"...our helper in Christ."
6. **Stachys. (Vs. 9b)**
"...my beloved."

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7. **Apelles. (Vs 10a)**
"...approved in Christ."
8. **Them Which Are Of Aristobulus' Household. (10b)**
A family who **PAUL** knew.
9. **Herodion. (Vs 11a)**
"...my kinsmen."
10. **Household Of Narcissus. (Vs 11b)**
"...which are in the Lord."
11. **Tryphena and Tryphosa. (Vs 12a)**
"...who labour in the Lord."
12. **Persis. (Vs 12b)**
"beloved...which laboured much in the Lord."
13. **Rufus. (Vs 13a)**
"...chosen in the Lord and his mother and mine."
14. **Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them. (Vs 14)**
15. **Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them. (Vs 15-16)**

C. The Application.

1. Now, what can we gain from this entire list?
2. This list shows that others played a part in **PAUL'S MINISTRY!**

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3. To think that **PAUL** was able to do all that he did in the **MINISTRY** by himself would be ridiculous!
4. **PAUL** had all kinds of people on his support team!
5. **PAUL** was trying to be an encouragement to the many who had been an encouragement to him!

*IN LIFE THERE ARE FRIENDS TO COMMEND.
IN LIFE THERE ARE FRIENDS TO GREET.*

III. IN LIFE THERE ARE SOME FOES TO AVOID. (Vs. 17-20)

There are some folks we shouldn't be associated with!

Don't think for one minute that **PAUL** did not have people against him. **SATAN** always has his crew that tries to mess up things!

There were people in **PAUL'S** day, who were dividing **CHURCHES** by teaching false doctrine, just as there are today.

But **PAUL** acknowledged that the **CHURCH** at **ROME** had been obedient up to the present.

But **PAUL** also gave them and us some advice here in *verse 19*. He told them (and us) to *"be wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."*

PAUL also reminded them that **GOD** would ultimately bruise **SATAN** under their feet.

**IV. GREETINGS FROM OTHERS WHO WERE WITH PAUL.
(Vs 21-23)**

V. PAUL'S BENEDICTION. (Vs 24-27)

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Conclusion

People from all walks of life are a part of **GOD'S FAMILY**—Rich and poor, male and female, **JEW** and **GENTILE**, bond and free, those who have a name among men as well as those who are virtually unknown.

**WE SHOULD LOVINGLY APPRECIATE THOSE WHO
FAITHFULLY SERVE THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE!**