

**“The Household Of God”**  
**Romans 16:21-24**

**Introduction:**

1. Just Down The Road From Us:
  - A New House Is Being Built - Which Means:
    - That In A Couple Of Months Time:
      - We Are Going To Have A New Neighbor!
  - But In The Mean Time:
    - I’m Enjoying Watching:
      - The Process & The Progress:
        - Of A New Home:
          - Being Made:
            - From The Ground Up!
2. Of Course - One Of The Illustrations:
  - Of The Church:
    - That We Find In The Bible:
      - Is That Of A Building!
        - But - It’s A Different Kind Of Building:
          - Altogether!
    - Not One Made With:
      - Wood & Nails Or Bricks & Mortar:
        - But With The Living Stones:
          - Of God’s Own People!
      - Even As It Is Described:
        - In Ephesians 2:19 - Where Paul Wrote That:
          - All Believers In Christ Make Up:
            - “The Household Of God - And Are Built Upon The Foundation Of The Apostles And Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself Being The Chief Corner Stone!”
  - 3. And The Lord Himself:
    - Takes Even More Delight In:
      - The Process & The Progress:
        - Being Made:
          - In The Building Up Of His Church:
            - Than I Do In Watching:
              - A New House Being Built!
  - 4. And - As We Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
    - To Romans 16:
      - We’ve Been Learning About Some Of The Ways:
        - God Builds His Church:
          - All Along!
      - Now - Even Though:
        - It Can Be Easy To Just Skim Over:
          - A Chapter Like This One:
            - Or Skip It All Together:
              - With All Of Its Names & Greetings!
        - I Think That The Lord Shows Us:
          - Part Of The Process:
            - He Uses To Make Us More & More Fit:
              - To Be The Household Of God!
    - 5. So - For A Brief Review:
      - In The Greetings From Paul:
        - In The First 7 Verses:
          - We See The Kind Of:
            - **Service** That It Takes:
              - To Build The Church! And Then:
      - By His Greetings:
        - In Verses 8-16:

- We Discovered The Kind Of:
    - **Unity** That There Can Be:
      - In The Church! And Then:
  - As We Considered Last Week:
    - In Verses 17-20:
      - We Explored The Kind Of:
        - **Purity** That There Should Be:
          - **To** Build The Church:
            - The Way The Lord Intends!
    - After All - As We Are Told In:
      - Ephesians 5:27 - Jesus Himself Desires, One Day, To Present The Church “To Himself A Glorious Church, Not Having Spot, Or Wrinkle, Or Any Such Thing; But That It Should Be Holy And Without Blemish!”
        - And So - It Takes Purity:
          - To Have The Kind Of Unity & Service:
            - That Is Necessary To Build The Church Of God!
6. But - As We Finish This Morning:
- With The Greetings & Salutations Of This Chapter:
    - We Find One Thing More:
      - That Is Necessary:
        - To Become “Fitly Framed Together!”
          - And That Is:
            - **Encouragement & Edification** Within The Church!
    - And We See An Example Of This Kind:
      - Of Encouragement & Blessing:
        - In 16:21-24 - Where - Instead Of:
          - Sending Greetings **To** Those **In** Rome:
            - As Paul Did In The First Part Of The Chapter!
          - We Find Greetings **From** Others **Away From** Rome:
            - To Encourage Them On Their Way!
      - Let’s Read Those Verses Together:
        - 16:21-24 - “Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. / I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord. / Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother. / The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!”

7. Now - As Much As The Romans:

    - Were Encouraged By The Personal Greetings:
      - In The First Part Of This Chapter:
        - By The Apostle Paul!
      - They Were Probably Encouraged Even More:
        - By These Greetings:
          - From These Other Brothers In Christ:
            - Who Were Part Of The Broader:
              - Household Of God!

8. And - Through Their Greetings:

    - We Can Identify 4 Ways:
      - That We Can Encourage & Edify:
        - The Church!

\* First - As We See From The Greetings In 16:21 - We Can Encourage The Church Through:

**1. Our Special Work!**

    - Because - In 16:21 - Paul Wanted The Romans To Know That:
      - “Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you!”
        - Now - At First Glance - The Only Name:
          - That Most Of Us Are Familiar With:
            - Is The First Name - Timotheus!
      - Now - Timothy:
        - *Was* One Of The Dearest Friends:

- Of The Apostle Paul!
  - In Philippians 2:20 - He Even Said This About Him - "For I Have No Man Likeminded!"
- But - As Near & Dear As:
  - Timothy Was To Paul:
    - Through This Greeting From Him:
      - We Can See That:
        - Our Work For The Lord Is Really:
- A Common Work!
  - That Is - We Are All In This Together!
    - **IE:** You've Probably Heard The Phrase - "Many Hands Make Light Work!" - True - When It Comes To Physical Labor & Spiritual Labor! Which Is Why:
      - In 16:21 - Paul Calls Timothy:
        - His "Work-Fellow!"
          - Or - Fellow-Laborer!
  - This Is The Same Description:
    - Paul Used Earlier In This Chapter:
      - To Describe Some Of Their Own Members:
        - There In The Church Of Rome!
  - Back In 16:3 - Paul Greeted:
    - "Priscilla And Aquila My Helpers (Work-Fellows) In Christ Jesus!"
      - Same Word!
    - And Then - In 16:9 - Paul Sent His Greetings To:
      - "Urbane, Our Helper (Work-Fellow) In Christ!"
  - And So - Timothy's Greeting:
    - Would Have Been An Encouragement To The Roman Church:
      - To Show Them That - Even Though Many Miles & Many Experiences Separated Them From Each Other:
        - They Were Working & Serving Together:
          - To Build Up The Household Of God!
  - But Then - I From The Rest Of 16:21 - We Can See That Our Work For The Lord Is:
- A Close Work!
  - Though We Are Most Familiar With Timothy:
    - In This Verse - As We Learn A Little More:
      - About The Others Mentioned:
        - I Think We Will See That:
          - For The Romans - All Four Of These Men Were Most Likely Heroes Of The Faith!
    - **IE:** And - It Would Have Been Something Like A Small Church Like Ours Getting A Personal Letter From Martin Luther During The Reformation!
  - "Lucius & Jason & Sosipater" Were All Jews:
    - Just Like Paul - But They Were Jews:
      - Who Were Converted To Christ:
        - And Became Devoted Followers And Ministers!
  - Lucius Here:
    - May Be The Same Lucius Mentioned:
      - Back In Acts 13 - Who Was An Early Member Of The Great Missionary Church:
        - In Antioch!
    - He Knew And Ministered Along With:
      - Barnabas As Well As Saul:
        - As A Preacher & Teacher!
  - Jason Here:
    - Is Probably The Same Jason Mentioned:
      - Back In Acts 17 - Who - After Being Saved Under Paul's Ministry:
        - Brought Paul & Silas Into His Own Home:
          - In The City Of Thessolonica!
    - He Was Even The One Who Was:
      - Accused & Assaulted:

- When The City Was In An Uproar Over The Gospel!
- So - He Would Have:
  - “Hazarded” His Life For The Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!
- Sosipater Here:
  - Is Most Likely The Same Man:
    - We Find In Acts 20:4 - With The Name:
      - “Sopater” - Whose Home-Town Was Berea!
    - The Same Town:
      - Where Paul Found Jews That “Were More Noble Than Those In Thessalonica, In That They Received The Word With All Readiness Of Mind, And Searched The Scriptures Daily, Whether Those Things Were So!”
    - And - When The Holy Spirit Convinced Sosipater That “Those Things *Were* So” - He Was Saved:
      - And Even Accompanied Paul:
        - On One Of His Trips To Asia!
  - And Even Though:
    - These Men Had Very Close Ties To:
      - The Apostle Paul!
    - Yet - Through Their Greetings:
      - To A Church That Was Made Up Of Mostly Gentiles:
        - They Showed Just How *Close* All Christians Really Are:
          - When It Comes To The Work Of The Lord!
      - What An Encouragement It Would Have Been:
        - For The Romans To Hear That These Godly Men:
          - Were Not Just *With* Them:
            - But *For* Them!
  - And - This Is One Of The Ways:
    - That We Can Build Up & Encourage:
      - The Church!
        - To Be *With* Each Other - And:
          - To Be *For* Each Other!
      - To Let Each Other Know:
        - That We Are All Involved:
          - In The Same Special Work!
      - The Work Of The Gospel!
        - It Is A Common Work - And:
          - It Is A Close Work!
            - It Brings God’s People Together!
    - Are You Involved:
      - In This Special Work?
        - Its Not Just For Others:
          - Its For You!
            - Great Encouragement - When “Many Hands” Come Together!

\* Then - Second - As We Will See From The Personal Greeting In 16:22 - We Can Encourage The Church Through:

**2. Our Special Word!**

- Because - In 16:22 - We Read:
  - “I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord!”
    - Now - It Was Paul’s Custom - When He Wrote These New Testament Letters:
      - To Use A Scribe - Or - An Amanuensis - Who Would Write Down The Words:
        - That God Inspired Him To Say To The Churches!
    - And Tertius Would Have Been:
      - A Believer - Who Had Been Trained:
        - To Listen Carefully - And Then:
          - To Write Small And Legibly:
            - Since Paper Was Both Scarce And Expensive In Those Days!
  - But - As He Transcribed The Words:
    - That Would Become:

- Paul's Majestic Manifesto Of The Gospel:
  - He Probably Became Completely Absorbed In His Work!
- And - After Writing:
  - Sentence After Sentence:
    - Word Upon Word:
      - And Even - Letter By Letter!
  - He Must Have Been Personally Moved By:
    - Paul's Clear Explanation:
      - Of The Gospel! And:
    - His Loving Exhortation:
      - In The Truth! And:
    - His Tender Encouragement:
      - To The Romans!
- And So - He Wanted To:
  - Send His Greetings To Them Too!
  - Because He Understood:
- The Great Privilege:
  - To Convey These Words:
    - To That Church!
  - Because - As It Turned Out:
    - These Words Were Not Just:
      - Paul's Words - But The Words Of God Himself!
  - And - Truly - There Is No Greater Privilege:
    - In All The World:
      - Than To Share These Same Words:
        - With Others!
    - Whether Its Something We Say! (Phone)
      - Or Something We Give! (Tract)
        - Or Something We Write Ourselves! (Letter)
  - You Can Encourage & Edify:
    - The Church:
      - By Communicating The Word Of God:
        - Even As Tertius Did!
        - Especially Since You Know:
- The Great Power:
  - Of The Word!
    - In 16:22 - Tertius Greeted The Romans:
      - "In The Lord!"
        - This Mirrors The Kind Of Relationship Paul Described:
          - Back In 16:8-16!
    - But - What Was It:
      - That United Him With Them?
        - What Was It:
          - That Gave Them:
            - "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, & One God And Father Of All!"
    - It Was The Power:
      - Of The Word!
  - And This Is How We Can:
    - Encourage Each Other:
      - In The Household Of God!
        - To Build Each Other Up:
          - Through The Word Of God!
    - Do You Share With Others:
      - This Special Word?
        - Not Just The Role Of A Preacher Or A Teacher!
          - It Can Be Something As "Behind-The-Scenes" As Tertius The Scribe!
    - **IE:** I Remember Getting Cards:
      - From A Former Member:

- That Was Filled With Scripture Wishes & Prayers!
- What An Encouragement!
- You Can Even Do It Through Singing!
- As Paul Writes In Colossians 3:16:
  - “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord!”

\* Another Way To Encourage The Church Is Through:

### 3. ***Our Special Welcome!***

- Which Is What We See Next In The Greeting Of 16:23a:
  - “Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you!”
  - Gaius Was A Member Of The Church Of Corinth:
    - Which Is Where Paul - And Tertius:
      - Wrote This Letter To The Romans!
  - Gaius Was Probably:
    - Even - What We Would Call:
      - A Charter Member The Church!
      - In 1 Corinthians (1:14) - Paul Even Says That He Had Personally Baptized Him:
        - When That Church Was First Planted!
    - And - When Gaius Was Saved:
      - He Became A “New Creature” - And Sought To Use All That He Had:
        - In Service To The Lord!
        - And - One Of Those Ways:
          - Was:
  - Through Gracious Hosting!
    - He Would Host The Apostle Paul:
      - When He Would Spend Time:
        - In Corinth!
    - Of Course - Gaius:
      - Was Not The Only Host:
        - That Welcomed Paul Into His Home!
        - Others Mentioned - Even In Romans 16!
    - But - What An Encouragement It Must Have Been:
      - For The Apostle Paul:
        - To Know That - After A Long & Dangerous Trip:
          - Whenever He Arrived In Corinth:
            - He Knew Where He Could Stay!
    - When He Knocked On The Door:
      - It Would Be Answered With A Smile!
    - When His Stomach Growled:
      - There Would Be A Hot Meal On The Table!
    - And When His Eyes Grew Heavy:
      - There Would Already Be A Bed & A Pillow:
        - Made Ready For Him!
    - Gaius Made Paul Feel Welcome:
      - No Matter When He Showed Up!
        - No Matter How Often He Showed Up!
          - But - Gaius’ Welcome Mat:
            - Was Even Bigger Than Most! Because - Paul Further Describes His Welcome:
  - Through Generous Hospitality!
    - He Was Not Just Paul’s Host - But Also:
      - The “Host” Of “The Whole Church!”
        - This May Mean That:
          - One Of The Congregations In Corinth Met In His Home!

- But - I Think The Way Paul Puts It Here:
  - His Hospitality:
    - Was Even Broader Than That!
- It Seems As If Gaius:
  - Was Willing To Host:
    - Anyone From Any Church:
      - Into His Home!
  - No Matter Who They Were!
    - No Matter Where They Were From!
      - No Matter Why They Had Come!
- And Gaius Was Known For:
  - His Gracious & Generous Hospitality!
    - Perhaps There Was An “Open Invitation” To Believers:
      - Who Might Travel To Corinth:
        - To Stay With Him!
- Perhaps - There Were Many In Rome:
  - Who Had Taken Him Up On His Offer!
    - And So - Would Have Remembered Him Fondly When He “Saluted Them!”
- This Too Is How We Can:
  - Encourage & Edify Each Other:
    - As Christians!
      - To Always Be Ready:
        - To Welcome Others:
          - Not Just Into Our Church, But Into Our Homes, And Into Our Hearts & Lives!
- Are You Known For:
  - An “Open Invitation” To Others:
    - To Call You?
    - To Come Over?
    - To Express A Need?
    - To Pray?
- What Kind Of Welcome:
  - Are You Known For?
    - Think If The Kind Of Welcome:
      - Jesus Had & Has:
        - Toward You!
  - In That - He:
    - Came For You!
    - Died For You!
    - Rose Again For You!
  - And - When You Believe In Him:
    - And Receive Him As Your Savior:
      - He Is Coming Again For You!
        - So That - As He Said In John 14:3 - “Where I Am, There Ye May Be Also!”
- What A Host Jesus Is!
  - What Hospitality Jesus Shows!
    - What A Welcome Jesus Offers!
      - And - When You Reflect His Welcome:
        - What An Encouragement You Can Be!

\* Then - We Can See A Fourth Way To Encourage The Church - Through:

**4. *Our Special Warmth!***

- As Seen In The Greetings Of Two More Men:
  - We Are Introduced To In 16:23b:
    - “Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother!”
- Erastus Was A Government Official:
  - In The City Of Corinth!

- In The 20th Century - An Inscription Was Even Found In The Pavement:
  - In The Ruins Of Corinth:
    - With This Man's Name On It!
- If It Was The Same Man:
  - He Would Have Been In Charge Of:
    - Some Of The Major Infrastructure Projects Around The City!
- But - Whether It's the Same Man Or Not:
  - There Would Have Been Something:
    - Very "Warm" In This Greeting:
      - From An Important Government Official!
        - Because - In Effect - He Is Saying That - If They Ever Came To Corinth:
          - They Already Had:
- Friends There!
  - A Friend In Erastus!
    - Even A Friend:
      - Who Could Help Them:
        - If They Ever Faced A Need!
  - But - Even More:
    - Through The Final Greeting Of:
      - This Man Named Quartus:
        - They Knew That They Also Had:
- Family There!
  - Even As He Is Described As:
    - "A Brother!"
      - Though There's Nothing More We Know From Scripture About This Man:
        - I Wonder If He Was More Than Just A Christian Brother To Them!
  - But Even A *Roman* Christian Brother:
    - Who Moved To Corinth:
      - And Wanted To Let His Church Back Home Know:
        - That All Was Well!
- And Through The Greetings Of These Two Men:
  - I Think We Can Get A Sense Of:
    - The Love And Warmth:
      - That Existed - Not Just *Within*:
        - Churches - But Even:
          - *Between* Churches:
            - In Those Days!
  - But - It All Starts With:
    - The Special Warmth:
      - That Comes From The Hearts:
        - Of God's People!
    - Are You Known For:
      - The Love & Warmth:
        - Of Christ To Others?

### Conclusion:

1. Because - These Are Some Of The Best Ways:
  - That We Can Encourage And Edify:
    - Each Other:
      - Within The Body Of Christ! Through:
        - Our Work!
        - Our Words!
        - Our Welcome! And:
        - Our Warmth!
2. But - Where Does This Even Come From?
  - In 16:24 - We Have Repeated For Us:
    - Paul's Prayer Of Blessing:



- Which He Already Offered:
    - Just 4 Verses Earlier!
  - “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!”
  - It Is The Grace Of God:
    - That Will Encourage You - And Then:
      - Will Enable You:
        - To Be An Encouragement To Others:
          - In These Ways!
3. And So - To Edify:
  - And Build Each Other Up:
    - In The Lord:
      - Let Us Reflect:
        - The Gracious & Generous Heart:
          - Of Jesus Christ Himself!

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