

# Where do you fit in?

Romans 16:1 I **commend** unto you **Phebe** our sister,

which is a **servant of the church**

which is at **Cenchrea: 2** That ye **receive her** in the

Lord, **as becometh saints,** and **that ye assist her** in

whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been

a **succourer of many, and of myself also. 3** Greet **Priscilla**

**and Aquila** my **helpers in Christ Jesus: 4** 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. **5** Likewise *greet* the **church that is in their house.**

Salute my wellbeloved **Epaenetus,** who is the **firstfruits**

of Achaia unto Christ. **6** Greet Mary, who **bestowed**

**much labour** on us. **7** Salute Andronicus and Junia, my

kinsmen, and my **fellowprisoners,** who are of note among

the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. **8** Greet

Amplias my **beloved** in the Lord. **9** Salute Urbane, our **helper**

in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. **10** Salute Apelles **approved in Christ**. Salute them which are of **Aristobulus' household**. **11** Salute Herodion my **kinsman**. Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. **12** Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who **labour** in the Lord. Salute the **beloved** Persis, which **laboured** much in the Lord. **13** Salute Rufus **chosen** in the Lord, and his mother and mine. **14** Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the **brethren** which are with them. **15** Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the **saints** which are with them. **16** Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

- Paul greets at least 25 individuals by name in this passage and several without their name
  - He uses the word greet 5 times
  - He uses the word salute 13 times
- He also greets several churches
- Paul loves people

1. Serving the church **16:1** I commend unto you **Phebe** our sister, which is a **servant of the church** which is at **Cenchrea: 2** That ye **receive her** in the Lord, **as becometh saints,** and **that ye assist her** in whatsoever **business** she hath need of you: for she hath been a **SUCCOURER of many, and of myself also.**

- a. Phebe was sent to deliver the letter to the Romans
  - i. Paul sends a letter to make sure the church treats her correctly
  - ii. Phebe is from a different church-the one at Cenchrea
    - 1. Churches are local to an area
    - 2. They know each other
    - 3. The church is an assembly-remember that
    - 4. Be in your place and allow your brothers and sisters to know you and be able to depend on you
    - 5. Paul sends the recommendation letter and that is what it literally was

- iii. She should be assisted or helped in what ever business she had
  - 1. She obviously was a person of great trust-doubt there was a back up copy of the letter on file at the office
  - 2. She traveled a great distance
  - 3. She was trusted to get there and deliver the message
- iv. She was to be treated in a way that saints should and would be proud to have treated her
- b. Phebe was a servant of the church
  - i. The word is the same word for deacon-servant
  - ii. She took care of people
  - iii. She met the needs of people
  - iv. Serving God means serving people
  - v. This word servant means someone who runs errands, works in the dust
  - vi. Obviously this word is not about authority but service as any deacon
  - vii. Synonyms of this word are slave, attendant
- c. She was also a succorer
  - i. Someone who gives help in times of need or distress or difficulty

- ii. The word also refers to giving assistance from her resources.
  - iii. She was like a patron of the church. She met the financial needs of the church in many ways
  - iv. Though she was wealthy she did not allow her wealth to give her a superior attitude
  - v. It did not get her out of menial jobs
- d. Where are you in your church right now?
- i. Do you serve?
  - ii. Are you willing to take the menial jobs?
  - iii. Are you concerned that people know who you are and how important you are?
  - iv. Do you sacrificially give to make sure your church can do the ministry that it is called to do?
  - v. Phebe served Paul and many others. She wasn't trying to get preferential treatment because she worked with the apostle but served everyone

2. Risking your life for men of God **3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:** **4 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. 5 Likewise *greet* the **church that is in their house**. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the **firstfruits** of Achaia unto Christ.

a. Helpers in Christ Jesus

- i. They had been there for Paul when the church in Corinth was not taking care of him financially like they should have been
- ii. They welcomed him
- iii. They helped financially
- iv. They helped spiritually. Do you remember how that Apollos didn't understand much of the Scriptures and they helped him

b. Risk their lives

- i. They had given him part of their business so that he would be able to make it financially
- ii. Witnessing for Jesus when they knew it could cause them harm
- iii. Meeting Paul's needs when he was in jeopardy or prison
- iv. Helping other Christians that were in danger
- v. Giving to the point it may have risked their own security

- c. Had a church in their home
  - i. The first lady, Phebe, was a patroness, a strong financial backer for the church
  - ii. This family had a church in their home so were also carrying a heavy load for their church
  - iii. Having a church in your home would cause additional expense, additional risk, and inconvenience
- d. Church in the house
  - i. Again notice, they had a place to meet
  - ii. They were an assembly
  - iii. They were known and knew each other
- e. What lessons apply to your life from this
  - i. How much of your life is dedicated to helping others do the work of God
  - ii. How much have you been willing to risk for the sake of the gospel
  - iii. Are you willing to risk your reputation or do you keep your love for Jesus quiet
  - iv. How much do you support your church and the work that God is doing there

v. How versed are you in the Scriptures, could you help a young man of God grow and be more greatly used of God in the ministry

f. Exciting results-seeing the first ones get saved **5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house.** Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the **firstfruits** of Achaia unto Christ.

i. This man was very loved by Paul

ii. He was the first one to follow Jesus

iii. What a privilege to have that tag added to your name

3. Working helpers **6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour** on us. **7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles,** who also were in Christ before me. **8 Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. 9 Salute Urbane, our helper** in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

a. Others are mentioned here and notice the words used to describe them



i. Labour **6** Greet Mary, who **bestowed much labour** on us. **12** Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who **laboured** in the Lord. Salute the **beloved** Persis, which **laboured** much in the Lord.

1. It takes a lot of hard work to have a church
2. Mary worked hard to help Paul be the man God was using him to be
3. The labor was in the Lord **12** Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who **laboured** in the Lord. Salute the **beloved** Persis, which **laboured** much in the Lord.
  - a. It is not a labor in the church
  - b. It is not a labor for people
  - c. It does all of that but much more
  - d. It is in the Lord
  - e. You may be in the music ministry, choir, special music or the sound ministry. Or you may be involved in cleaning
    - i. It takes a lot of work
    - ii. You are serving everyone else
    - iii. But your real service is to the Lord Jesus Christ

f. Really coming to church and worshipping God are not passive, spectator activities. They require great work. Are you involved in the ministry of your church? Do you labor to help get the gospel out, make the services a blessing, win souls, worship Jesus?

ii. Helper **9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.**

1. Not all of us are going to do the same work. Not all of us will sing in the choir or do special music

2. Not all will teach Sunday School

3. Not all will have any particular ministry but all can be involved helping

4. Notice that the helpers got special mention in the book of Romans **3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my**

### **helpers in Christ Jesus:**

iii. Fellow prisoner **7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.**

1. Some were paying a much stronger price. They were in jail also
2. They had preached and taught. They had been arrested and were held captive away from their family etc

4. Wonderful love and fellowship between them and the man of God

a. Words used to describe them

- i. First fruits-those first ones that **5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house.** Salute my wellbeloved **Epaenetus**, who is the **firstfruits** of Achaia unto Christ.
- ii. Beloved **8 Greet Amplias my beloved** in the Lord. **9 Salute Urbane, our helper** in Christ, and Stachys my **beloved.** **12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour** in the Lord. Salute the **beloved** Persis, which **laboured** much in the Lord.
- iii. Approved **10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ.** Salute them which are of **Aristobulus' household.**

- iv. Family 11 Salute Herodion my **kinsman**. Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.
- v. Chosen 13 Salute Rufus **chosen** in the Lord, and his mother and mine.
- vi. Brothers 14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the **brethren** which are with them.
- vii. Saints 15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the **saints** which are with them.

b. Thoughts based on these words

- i. Never forget the first ones you see saved nor those that lead you to Christ
- ii. There was a great deal of love going around among the church
- iii. They were chosen and they were saints
- iv. Paul had lots of family that were evidently getting saved

v. Most beautiful of all is that one we approved **10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ.** Salute them which are of **Aristobulus' household.**

1. Jim Elliot's AUG degree "Approved Unto God" degree
2. More important than anything is to know that God is pleased with my worship and my service

c. Applying this to your life

i. Are you certain of your relationship to God

1. Are you a saint, chosen
2. Do you know for sure that you are saved and on your way to heaven

ii. How is your relationship with the family? In others words here in the church?

iii. Do you feel the love **16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.**

- Are you fitting in?
- Do you know that you would go to Heaven if you die?
- Have you found your place of service?
- Are you actively working to fulfill a ministry in the church and family

- Are you a giver that helps to meet the needs of the church and its ministries?
- Are you helping others or just seeking help?
- Would you say God approves of your service, your worship, your loving your brothers and sisters in Christ
- Are you just sitting, soaking, and souring or are you actively participating?
- Are you in?