

Holy Spirit Inspired Words With Significance

Romans 16:1-16

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I. General lessons that can be learned about this passage

- A lesson to the selective—This is not Chapter 8, but it is still important
- A lesson to the scholar—Don't overlook the "God's ways" passages
- A lesson to the lazy—Real faith in real grace produces real people
- A lesson to the little people—What you do really matters
- A lesson to the big people—Little people really matter

II. Paul introduced to the Romans a sister named Phebe

Rom 16:1 I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

Rom 16:2 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. It is appropriate for saints to receive and assist each other

Php 4:2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

Php 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.

B. Phebe had been a servant to the church and helper of many—including Paul

Luk 8:2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,

Luk 8:3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.

C. The importance of women in the church

1. Paul mentions:

Phebe, Priscilla, Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Persis, Rufus' mother, Nereus' sister

2. The example of Lydia

Act 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*.

Act 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

Act 16:15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.

Act 16:40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into *the house of* Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

3. Christian women in the church

Tit 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Tit 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Tit 2:5 *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

4. Christian mothers in the home

1Ti 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

2Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice...

2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures...

5. What about Christian wives?

a. The origin of the husband being over the wife is God's curse of the woman

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, *It is* not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Gen 3:16 ...thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

b. New Testament teaching did not change God's order

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

1Pe 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands...

1Pe 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord...

c. Yet New Testament Christ-like love re-taught a husband to be one with his wife

1Pe 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

III. A wife and husband: Priscilla and Aquila

Rom 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

Rom 16:4 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.

Rom 16:5 Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house...

A. Paul's history with these two

Act 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

Act 18:2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;) and came unto them.

Act 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

B. Priscilla is one of the best lessons we have on the woman's role with the gospel

1. Priscilla and Aquila taught Apollos the gospel of grace

Act 18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

Act 18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

Act 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

2. Women prophesied in the New Testament

Act 21:9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...

3. The angel and Jesus sent the women to proclaim a resurrected Jesus

Mat 28:7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead...

Mat 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

4. Yet a woman is not to be a preacher or a deacon in Jesus' church

1Ti 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...

1Ti 3:12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

1Co 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

1Co 14:35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

1Ti 2:11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

1Ti 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Tit 2:15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

C. The church in their house

1Co 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

1. The scriptures acknowledge large churches

Act 2:41 ...and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

2. The scriptures describe a closeness in church akin to a body, a house or a family

1Co 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him ...

1Co 12:17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? ...

1Co 12:21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee ...

1Co 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:21 ...the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God...

1Ti 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.

IV. Epaphroditus

Rom 16:5 ...Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

1Co 16:15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

1Co 16:16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with *us*, and laboureth.

Act 18:10 ...for I have much people in this city.

V. Mary's much labor

Rom 16:6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us

1Th 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Heb 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

VI. Andronicus and Junia—pillars in the church with long service

Rom 16:7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

A. Fellow prisoners with Paul at some point

2Co 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

B. Of note among the Apostles (perhaps among the seventy)

Luk 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also...

VII. Various: Beloved—Helpers—Tested—Families—Kinsman

Rom 16:8 Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord.

Rom 16:9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.

Rom 16:10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' *household*.

Rom 16:11 Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

VIII. Three women who labored in the Lord

Rom 16:12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

IX. One chosen in the Lord and his mother

Rom 16:13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

A. Perhaps the son of the one who bore Jesus' cross

Mar 15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.

B. Chosen in the Lord

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

C. If not Paul's natural mother—he thought of her as such

1Ti 5:2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

X. Two sets of five—and those that are with them

Rom 16:14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.

Rom 16:15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

XI. The holy kiss

Rom 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss...

1Co 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

1Th 5:26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.

1Pe 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace *be* with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Act 20:36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.

Act 20:37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him,

Act 20:38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

XII. The churches salute you

Rom 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Rom 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf...