

Right in God's Sight

Studies from the Book of Romans

Lesson 20

Romans 16:1–27

Personal Greetings and Conclusion

Of the sixty-six books of the Bible, and arguably all Christian books ever written, the Book of Romans is perhaps the most powerful and authoritative book in the Christian world. It was the book that led the early church father Augustine to salvation. It was the inspiration for men such as Martin Luther, who began the Protestant Reformation, and John Wesley, who led the great revival in England. Throughout the centuries it has been a light to open the eyes and point the way for all who seek to find the love and grace of a forgiving God who invites sinners to come to new life in Jesus Christ.

Paul closes his epistle to the Romans with personal commendations and greetings, a final warning regarding false teachers, the promise of spiritual victory and a heart-felt benediction.

Read Romans 16:1–27.

Here we get an close up glimpse into those faithful Christians who worked alongside Paul in the ministry and the gratitude he had for each one's contribution. He greets them by name, acknowledging their gifts and service on behalf of Christ. We see Paul's heart and the fact that what he has written in this letter goes beyond doctrinal teaching; it is the reality of the Christian life! The individuals he mentions are those he knew well because he worked hand in hand with them to advance the message of the Gospel. It is clear that he valued each person and was exceedingly grateful for their friendship and fellowship in the faith. This is his moment to recognize them so that they would be acknowledged by their brethren in Rome.

Paul's list of commendations in verses 1–16, consists of twenty-six who are mentioned by name, plus two who are not mentioned by name (Rufus' mother, v. 13; and Nereus' sister, v. 15). There are Jews and Gentiles from all walks of life. Some are persons of distinction, others are slaves, and one third are women.

Look closer:

Read the list in vv. 1–16 through a second time. All were important to Paul, but some are given specific recognition. In the space provide on the next page, write down those individuals who Paul singles out and make note of what he says about each one. Think about the influence each life had on Paul and the lasting impact of their contribution to the body of Christ today, some two thousand years later. (As you have time, you may want to look up these men and women in your Bible concordance or dictionary to gain further information.)

Look closer (cont.-)

Lined writing area consisting of 28 horizontal lines.

Selah . . .

- ❖ Personal: If Paul were to write something about you and your contribution to the body of Christ, what would he say about your service?

- ❖ When thinking about your lasting legacy, what do you hope to accomplish in the future for Christ and how would you like to be remembered?

Memory Verse:

Your last memory verse this year taken from Matthew 25:21. These are the words Paul no doubt heard at the end of his life, the same words each of us longs to hear when we reach the end of our life's road: "*Well done, good and faithful servant . . . Enter into the joy of your Lord.*"

Romans 16:17–27

Final Words

Any parent who is away for a time will leave a note of instruction for loved ones that usually contains a word of caution about what to avoid. Paul was no different; he was unable to resist giving a final word of warning about what to watch out for.

1. Who were the believers cautioned about? vv. 17–18
 - a. What kind of doctrine were these individuals teaching?

 - b. Who were they actually most interested in serving?

 - c. What action was to be taken when encountering them?

2. For another look at what Paul says about these teachers, go to 1 Timothy 6:3–6. Again, what action are the believers to take?
 - a. According to Acts 17:10–11, what is the *only* way for a believer to keep from being misled by false teachers?

3. What kind of reputation do the Roman believers have? What did Paul want them to be? v.19 Compare this with Jesus' words in Matthew 10:16.

4. What does God promise to do with false teachers when Christ returns? v. 20

Verses 21–24 convey personal greetings from some of Paul's friends in the Lord: Timothy, Paul's co-laborer and spiritual son, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, his fellow countrymen. Then Tertius, who wrote down Paul's words to the Roman believers, and Gaius, one of Paul's converts. Finally Erastus, a high city official in Corinth, sent his greetings as well as Quartus, a brother in the faith.

Selah . . .

In his closing benediction, Paul restates much of what he opened with in the beginning of his letter to the Romans. Read Romans 16:25–27 along with Romans 1:1-6. Think about the *Roman's Road* you have walked this year as you consider the following:

- ❖ How has God *established* you through the study of His Word this year?

- ❖ In what specific way has He asked you to be obedient to your faith? Will you prayerfully commit yourself to Him in this matter?

"The great thing is to be found at one's post as a child of God, living each day as though it were our last, but planning as though our world might last a hundred years."

C. S. Lewis

My Romans Road Review

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at *your* Roman's Road this year. Briefly recap what you learned below to help you take the next step in your walk with the Lord.

1. Name one lesson in your study that has become life-changing to you this year.

2. How has your study in the Book of Romans affected your daily Christian walk?

Memory Verse:

What new insight did you gain about God this year from your Scripture memorization?

Do you have a favorite memory verse from this year's study? Please write it below.

Prayer Request:

Did God answer a prayer request this year? What was it and how did He answer? Did you remember to thank Him?
