

**PAUL'S PARTING POINTS**  
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Romans 16:1-27

1. Here we have Paul's concluding remarks to "the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints (holy ones)." Romans 1:6-7
2. In this chapter Paul called special attention to three entities:
  - a. People worthy of praise.
  - b. People to keep an eye on.
  - c. Our ultimate Resource.
3. As professed followers of Jesus Christ we are to look to Him as our ultimate authority.
4. We have the Word of God and the Spirit of God to instruct and enable us.
5. Unfortunately many follow the lead of men rather than the clearly stated truths found in the Word of God.
6. May God help us as individuals and as a church to embody His original intent related to our personal and corporate lives.
7. Every church should strive to be a manifestation of God's intention rather than a testament to man's invention.
8. With these thoughts in mind let's examine this chapter under three headings.

**I. Worthy of special mention. 1-16**

- A. As we examine Paul's comments related to various people ask yourself, "What might Paul say about me if he knew me intimately?"
- B. There are those who say that Paul had a low view of women, but this passage gives a distinctly different impression.
- C. Paul did teach that women are to be under the authority of their husbands and those appointed by God to oversee the church, but that did not rule out their ongoing and significant contribution to the cause of Christ.
- D. Here Paul commended and recognized a number of people who were worthy of special mention.
  1. Phoebe.
    - a. A servant of the church which was at Cenchræa (eastern seaport of Corinth)  
NOTE: The implication is that she held a church-appointed position of responsibility. The word used for servant is the same Greek word translated deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8.
    - b. She carried this letter to Rome while on some sort of business trip.
    - c. Paul instructed the church to provide her whatever assistance she needed because she was a helper of many and of Paul as well.
  2. Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila who befriended Paul when he first came to Corinth.
    - a. They were Paul's "fellow workers" both as tent makers and as Christians.
    - b. They put their lives on the line for Paul.
    - c. Paul, and many churches, owed them a debt of gratitude.
    - d. They led a church in their house.

3. We are also introduced to:
    - a. Epaenetus, who was beloved by Paul, and his first convert to Christ in Asia.
    - b. Mary, a hard worker in the church at Rome.
    - c. Adronicus and Junias, Paul's kinsmen, fellow prisoners, outstanding apostles, who were in Christ before Paul was.
  4. Others are referred to as, "my beloved in the Lord," "our fellow worker in Christ," "the approved of Christ," "who are in the Lord," "workers in the Lord," "who has worked hard in the Lord," and a "choice man of the Lord."
  5. It is important to note that many of those mentioned are women.
- E. It is also important to note that Paul recognized and valued those committed Christians, both men and women, who served the Lord and the church with distinction.

## II. Worthy of special attention. 17-20

- A. Here Paul focuses on a different group of people who were hindrances rather than helpers.
- B. He warned the church to keep an eye on those who caused dissension, and who, through their teaching, caused people to stumble.
- C. Sadly these types of people are found in many churches.
  1. They were men who were self-serving rather than servants of Christ and the church.
  2. They used smooth and flattering speech to deceive the unsuspecting.
  3. They were to be identified, exposed, and turned away from.
- D. Apparently, based on verse 19, the church at Rome had done a good job related to identifying and dealing with such people, but Paul wanted them to remain vigilant.
- E. Such people are planted in churches by Satan, who we will eventually be victorious over.

## III. Worthy of special exultation. 25-27

- A. Note Paul's emphasis on the grace of God in verses 20 and 24.
  - B. "Now to Him...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever."
 

NOTE: You and I exist, and this church exists, to glorify God. 1 Cor 10:31-32

"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."
  - C. Notice that God is able to establish us according to (through the means of) the gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ, and the divine revelation of truths previously hidden but now made manifest.
  - D. These truths are now made manifest through the Scriptures, and in accordance with the commandment of God had been made known to all the nations in Paul's world leading to obedience of faith in the lives of many.
- NOTE: What was true in Paul's world should be true in our world as well.
- Luke 24:44-49

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the

Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and **that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things. 49** "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

#### **APPLICATION**

1. What can be said about you related to Jesus Christ and your involvement with a local body of believers?
2. Have you repented towards God and embraced by faith Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
3. To what degree are you an active participant in the life and ministry of a local body of believers?
4. That which is currently accepted in our culture related to our relationship with a local church is far below the biblical standard set forth in the Scriptures.
5. Is your life being lived to glorify God and to advance His purposes in the world?