

HARVEST FORT WORTH / EQUIP CLASS

Sunday January 18, 2026

Teacher: Bob Taylor

LESSON TITLE: HOW TO TREAT YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

1. IN ROMANS CHAPTER 16 PAUL GREETS, BY LETTER, HIS MANY FRIENDS IN THE CHURCH IN ROME

Quote by Pastor Skip Hietzig: "This is a family chapter, it is filled with spiritual family language. Paul did not operate as a "Lone Ranger". He always had a partnership of believers around him."

- Notice as we read this chapter what kind of family Paul had surrounded himself with? All of the people that Paul mentions are those that are "**IN THE LORD**".
- Have you ever heard some people say, " I don't need to belong to a local church." Generally we should all be closely connected to our brothers and sisters that make up the family of God.
- **Paul demonstrates how we should treat other believers?:** "Be welcoming or hospitable, be honoring and be discerning." Someone said, "If the world seems cold to you, kindle fires to warm it."

1 I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, who is a **deacon** in the church in Cenchrea. **2** Welcome her (in the Lord) as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

- Phoebe is a sister in the Lord, a faithful servant of the Lord and a helper to other believers.
- 9 of the 26 people mentioned in this chapter are women. This letter was written 2,000 years ago in a barbaric Greco Roman culture.

ROMANS 16:1-2 IN THE (MESSAGE TRANSLATION)

Be sure to welcome our friend **Phoebe** in the way of the Master, with all the generous hospitality we Christians are famous for. I heartily endorse both her and her work. She's a key representative of the church at Cenchrea. Help her

out in whatever she asks. She deserves anything you can do for her. She's helped many a person, including me.

3 Give my greetings to **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. **4** In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. **5** Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home.

Greet my dear friend **Epenetus**. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. **6** Give my greetings to **Mary**, who has worked so hard for your benefit. **7** Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did. **8** Greet **Ampliatius**, my dear friend (in the Lord). **9** Greet **Urbanus**, our co-worker (in Christ), and my dear friend **Stachys**.

10 Greet **Apelles**, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of **Aristobulus**.

11 Greet **Herodion**, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of **Narcissus**. **12** Give my greetings to **Tryphena** and **Tryphosa**, the Lord's workers, and to dear **Persis**, who has worked so hard for the Lord. **13** Greet **Rufus**, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me.

14 Give my greetings to **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermes**, **Patrobas**, **Hermas**, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. **15** Give my greetings to **Philologus**, **Julia**, **Nereus** and his sister, and to **Olympas** and all the believers who meet with them. **16** Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

- Comment on the words, "Greet each other with a sacred kiss."
- Paul mentions 26 men and women that he knew personally that are part of the church in Rome. It is hard for us to pronounce these names but Paul knew each of these people personally by name.

2. PAUL MAKES ONE FINAL APPEAL TO THE CHURCH IN ROME, BE DISCERNING

17 And now I make one more appeal, my dear (brothers and sisters). Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. **18** Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people.

ROMANS 16:17-18 IN THE (LIVING BIBLE)

17 And now there is one more thing to say before I end this letter. Stay away from those who cause divisions and are upsetting people's faith, teaching things about Christ that are contrary to what you have been taught. **18** Such teachers are not working for our Lord Jesus but only want gain for themselves. They are good speakers, and simple-minded people are often fooled by them.

19 But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. **20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

ROMANS 16:19-20 IN THE (MESSAGE TRANSLATION)

I couldn't be more proud of you!—I want you also to be smart, making sure every "good" thing is the *real* thing. Don't be gullible in regard to smooth-talking evil. Stay alert like this, and before you know it the God of peace will come down on Satan with both feet, stomping him into the dirt. Enjoy the best of Jesus!

3. PAUL SENDS GREETINGS TO THE CHURCH IN ROME FROM THOSE WHO ARE WITH HIM IN THE CITY OF CORINTH

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do **Lucius**, **Jason**, and **Sosipater**, my fellow Jews.

22 I, **Tertius**, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

23 Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. **Erastus**, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother **Quartus**.

25 Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time.

26 But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. **27** All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

- Paul mentions 8 other believers that are with him in the city of Corinth where he writes this letter to the church in Rome. Paul was a friend maker and not just a soul winner.
- **I wonder, when we get to heaven, if we will meet Paul and all his friends mentioned in Chapter 16 of Romans?**