

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"Paul's BFF's"
Romans 16:1-24
Part-43

Paul mentions **35 names** in **Romans 16**

Paul had never been to Rome: Paul met these people on his travels ~ kept in touch by letters ~ Sending messages by Word of Mouth.

11 times it says the phrase: "**in the Lord**" "**in Christ Jesus**" "**in Christ**"

"The highest Christian love is not devotion to a work or to a cause, but to Jesus Christ."
- Oswald Chambers

Thought of Our Passage: "Christian Friendships Are The Deepest And Richest Of All Relationships Because They Are The Result Of Being In Christ"

- 1. Verses 1-16 Love Seeks**
- 2. Verses 17-20 Love Shields**
- 3. Verses 21-24 Love Serves**

1. Verses 1-16 Love Seeks

Romans 16:1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe –

"to recommend, to vouch for" - Frequently done in NT – Letters of recommendation,

Acts 18:27: Letter to welcome, **2 Corinthians:** Letter of Commendation,

2 Corinthians: 3 John 9-10

sister - member of the family of God. Not physical but by faith

Phoebe - literally *"bright, or radiant"* a Gentile name. One of the names of the goddess Diana, *"goddess of the moon"* **Acts 19:23-41** (A single sister)

Word **servant** it is the same word that is translated *"deacon"*

Phoebe carried the epistle of Romans **of the church** *"called out ones, believers"*

which is at Cenchrea; Port of Corinth. It was 9 miles from city - rough pagan port

Romans 16:2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints,
She was to be treated with honor, **Galatians 6:10**

for she herself has also been a helper of many, and myself as well –

What a testimony Paul gives of this woman!

Phoebe Using Her Singleness To Minister To Others.

Romans 16:3 Prisca or Priscilla – literally, “*old fashioned or true virtues*”

Christians will always be in demand - never go out of style

Aquila (Husband) means, “*an eagle*”

my fellow workers in Christ Jesus

Husband & wife team - Ministry for Jesus together.

Trade: tentmakers with Paul **Acts 18:3**

Husband and wife team moving all over: **Rome, Corinth, Ephesus**, then **Rome**, then **Ephesus**. They lived for and were directed by Jesus Christ.

There is an incident recorded of Priscilla and Aquila involving the great teacher Apollos (Acts 18:24-28)

Romans 16:4 who for my life risked their own necks,

“*laid down their own necks, under the axe*” possibly the riot **Acts 19:23-41** Hid Paul?

Being a disciple of Jesus Christ calls for sticking your neck out!

2 Timothy 3:12

Romans 16:5 church that is in their house. First 300 years Christians met in homes

Prisca & Aquila open their home.

Greet Epaphroditus, “praise” my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from

Asia. You never forget your first convert; Ephesus was the capital.

Romans 16:6 Greet Mary – common name 6 “Mary’s” in the Scriptures - obscurity

who has worked hard “*to feel fatigue, toil, be wearied, the toiler*” **for you.**

Romans 16:7 Andronicus literally, “*excel others*” - Christian maturity

Junias, my kinsmen – A Jew who was possibly from the tribe of Benjamin.

fellow prisoners – he had suffered with Paul. Prisoner for Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:5; 11:23

outstanding among the apostles The term **apostle** means “*Messenger*”

That **both** were apostles, or that they were highly esteemed among them.

who also were in Christ before me Before Paul was saved.

Romans 16:8 Ampliatus, - literally, “*enlarged or ample*” (slave name) name found on a 2nd century Roman catacomb.

Romans 16:9 Urbanus, - literally, *“belonging to the city”* - politeness, civility.

Stachys - literally, *“an ear of grain”* **John 15:1-17**

Romans 16:10 Apelles, the approved in Christ. - *“being tested, tried and being found true in Jesus Christ”*

household of Aristobulus - literally, *“wise or excellent, counselor, maturity of wisdom, good judgment”* Grandson of King Herod the Great. (William Barclay) *The Gospel penetrated Rome’s highest office!*

Romans 16:11 Herodion, my kinsman. Of Jewish decent

Greet those of the {household} of Narcissus, - was a wicked man to whom it is believed to have died 3 years before the epistle.

Our Earthly Family Does Not Determine Our Eternal Destination.

(N.L.T.)1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Romans 16:12 Tryphaena – “dainty” Tryphosa – “delicate”
Believed to be twin sisters.

Workers in the Lord. literally, *“labor to the point of exhaustion”*

Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord. *“who labored much in the Lord”* implies she is an older woman who for some time has been serving the Lord.

Romans 16:13 Rufus, - *red* - Latin - **choice** (chosen) **man in the Lord, Mark 15:21**

also, his mother and mine - Paul needed some mothering

Romans 16:14 Asyncritus, - literally, *“incomparable”* We are unique in Christ

Phlegon, literally, *“zeal”* used of productive service

Hermes - Name of a Greek god, *“god of good luck”* paganism to follow Christ.

Patrobes - literally, *“father’s life”* that we would take on the Heavenly Father’s life.

Hermas – a common name that was an abbreviation.

Romans 16:15 Philologus - literally, *“lover of learning”* **Acts 17:11**

and Julia (His wife), Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, The 3 children.

Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. Men with men, women to woman

2. Verses 17-20 Love Shields

Romans 16:17 Be Vigilant: I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those - watch out for those - keep a look out – **who cause dissensions** - *separations*, (What is taught)

hindrances - *offense, scandal, stumbling block* (how they live)

contrary to the teaching – Doctrine, the truths of Scripture.

which you learned – They were taught in the Scriptures.

Be Separated: turn away from them - Today, shunning them is considered un-Christian, unloving

Romans 16:18 Unsaved Trouble Makers: For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; Philippians 3:19

and by their smooth and flattering speech “polished language” they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. Use the same words of Christianity but use a different dictionary!

Romans 16:19 Grow In Discernment: I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

Romans 16:20 The reference to **Genesis 3:15** God will do this in His timing.
1 Corinthians 15:25-28

3. Verses 21-24 Love Serves

Romans 16:21 Timothy my fellow worker greets you, - Young pastor under Paul
Lucius - **Acts 13:1** possibly Luke

Jason - **Acts 17:1-9** Thessalonica was Paul’s host

Sosipater - literally, “*of a safe father*” of Berea **Acts 20:4**

Romans 16:22 Tertius – “*third*” Wrote the letter as it was dictated. Tertius adds “**greet you in the Lord.**” He steps into the Scriptures, amazing!

Romans 16:23 Gaius, host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Paul baptized Gaius. **1 Corinthians 1:14** Wealthy man who supported Paul and the church.

Erastus - the city treasurer - Treasurer of Corinth - found his inscription at Corinth of marble paving block dated 50-100 AD “*Erastus, commissioner for public works*”

Quartus, “fourth” the brother. Younger brother? of Tertius “*fourth*”

Romans 16:24

Application:

1. Being A Disciple Of Jesus Christ And A Christian Friend Calls For Sticking Out Our Neck For Others.
2. "The Approved In Christ" This Can Only Happen Through Being Tested And Tried. Then It Can Be Said Of Us "The Approved In Christ."
3. Our Earthly Family Does Not Determine Our Eternal Destination. Through A Relationship With Jesus Christ, We Can Be A New Creation In Christ.
4. The Need Of Discernment To Know That Which Is Good Well Enough To Do It, And To Know Enough About Error To Be Warned Of Its Presence.