

DEVOTED SAINTS

Romans 16:1-24

Introduction

Romans 16 is an inside look at the church in Rome.

I. The church is a new community united by love. Romans 16:1-16

Phoebe

- Our sister - We are a family in Christ.
- A servant (deaconess) of the church at Cenchrea.
- Very likely carried this letter to Rome.

Priscilla and Aquila

- Tentmakers by trade.
- Teachers and church planters.
- They taught Apollos – Acts 18:26.
- They risked their lives for Paul.

Epenetus

- My dear friend.
- The first convert in Asia (modern Turkey) – “the first of Asia’s gifts to Christ”.

Mary - who worked very hard for you.

Adronicus and Junias

- Husband and wife.
- Kinsman – fellow Jews.
- Apostles in the sense of messengers or missionaries.

Ampliatus – whom I love.
Urbanus – our fellow worker.
Stachys – my dear friend.

Do you hear Paul's heart?
Can you imagine how these individuals felt when they heard their name?

Apelles – tested and approved.

The household of Aristobulus – possibly the grandson of Herod the Great.
The household of Narcissus – possibly the wealthy freedman of the Roman Emperor Tiberius.

Tryphena and Tryphosa

- Sisters – likely twins.
- Their names mean “dainty and delicate”.
- They work hard in the Lord.

Rufus and his Mother

- Son of Simon of Cyrene who was forced to carry the cross of Christ.
- Mentioned in Mark 15:21 – written by Mark in Rome.

Do you see how much they cared for one another?

We are a family united by our love for one another.

II. The church is a new community united by the truth of the gospel (God's Word). Romans 16:17-20

"Watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned."

Watch out for false teachers.

- Their motive is personal gain.
- Their method is smooth talk and flattery.

God will give you victory.

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

Paul points us back to Genesis 3:15. The only thing that will bring peace to our world is when Satan is finally and forever destroyed.

III. The church is a new community united by Christ. Romans 16:21-24

Paul sends greetings from his coworkers and the church in Corinth.

A paving stone was discovered at Corinth with the Latin inscription – “Erastus, commissioner of public works, bore the expense of this pavement.”

Faith

The Gospel penetrated all parts of the city – rich and poor, slave and free, educated and uneducated, male and female, Jew and Gentile. They formed a new community united by their commitment to Jesus Christ.

Faith

Conclusion

We are a new community:

- United by our love for one another.
- United by the truth of God’s Word.
- United by our faith in Jesus Christ.

Love Truth Faith