

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	04 Sept	Romans 1:1-17	Good News To Tell
2)	11 Sept	Romans 1:18-3:26	Good News to Hear
3)	18 Sept	Romans 3:27-4:25	Good News to Believe
4)	25 Sept	Romans 5:1-21	It's All About Grace
5)	02 Oct	Romans 6:1-23	It's All About New Life
6)	09 Oct	Romans 7:1-25	It's All About Victory
7)	16 Oct	Romans 8:1-39	It's All About Certainty
8)	23 Oct	Romans 9:1-11:36	It's All About God's Plan
9)	30 Oct	Romans 12:1-21	Does Your Life Please God
10)	06 Nov	Romans 13:1-14	Can You Be Counted On
11)	13 Nov	Romans 14:1-12	Do You Respect Others
12)	13 Nov	Romans 14:13-23	Do You Strive for Peace with Others
13)	20 Nov	Romans 15:1—33. Part I.	Does Your Life Speak Well of God?
14)	27 Nov	Romans 16:1—27 Part II.	Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

INTRODUCTION

- We are introduced to more than 35 saints in this last chapter who had special meaning for Paul. They were acknowledged as either part of his biological or spiritual family ('my kinsmen'), or as beloved individuals, hard workers, or just had their names mentioned
- Paul acknowledged one church (in Aquila/Priscilla's house), two households (Aristobolus & Narcissus), & a bunch of "brethren"
- Paul also acknowledged **10 women** in this litany of names on par with the renowned men listed, with the exception of Phoebe, the very first person mentioned, and she is held up in higher esteem above all others for her dedicated service as a servant/deaconess
- Finally, Paul tells this hard-charging church to keep a watchful eye on troublemakers, false teachers, dissenters within their church

No.	Vs	Name	Sex	Credit
1.	1	Phoebe	F	Deaconess from Cenchrea (near Corinth), and courier of this letter

Note: Some churches use this passage (v1) to justify women deacons on par with male deacons. Other churches see Phoebe as a servant (more generalized term). **Mat 23:11** states "Those that are greatest among you shall be your servant (diakonos)." Jesus also was a servant (diakonos). So Phoebe was in great company

Phoebe's dedicated service matches the meaning of her name '**radiant**'

- Phoebe carried Paul's letter from Corinthian to the Roman church, a distance over 600 miles. The trip would take 2 hours by plane, 12 hours by car; 6 days by bicycle; or 1-2 months by walking and sailing
- Paul acknowledged Phoebe's important role at her home church as a servant/deaconess, and she took time to deliver this important letter
- Paul stressed to the Roman believers to treat Phoebe in a very special way – as one of the saints, and to pull out all stops to help her
 - ♦ What would this help look like? Travel money back? New sandals?
 - ♦ How do we treat missionaries when they take time away from their field of service to pay us a visit with news from abroad?

2.	v12	Tryphaena	F	Workers in the Lord, probably sisters. Names mean 'luxury'
3.	12	Tryphosa	F	
4.	12	Persis	F	Beloved and hard worker

Paul addressed Persis as "beloved" but some men as "MY beloved"

- Persis was either cherished by many, or Paul avoided impropriety

5.	v6	Mary	F	Hard worker (6 th Mary in NT)
6.	13	Rufus' Mother	F	...and Paul's mother (term of endearment)
7-8	15	Julia (F) and Nereus' Sister		
9.	3	Prisca / Priscilla	F	Husband/wife team. Fellow workers who risked their lives for Paul
10.	3	Aquila	M	

Priscilla & Aquilla are mentioned 6x in NT. Both were instrumental in discipling Apollos (Acts 18:24-28) so he could better articulate the Gospel

- Priscilla/Aquilla traveled with Paul on his 2nd missionary journey and somehow ended up in or near Rome and started their own church
- Paul tells the Roman believers to greet the church in their house

No.	Vs	Name	Sex	Credit
11.	7	Andronicus	M	My kinsmen & fellow prisoners who are outstanding among the Apostles (were they Apostles?)
12.	7	Junia / Junias	F/M	
Note: Apostolic-type churches use this passage (v7) & Acts 14:14 to justify succession of Apostles, & women can be Apostles, assuming Junia (F) is the correct translation and Andronicus and Junia/Junias were indeed Apostles. A more conservative interpretation just sees Andronicus and Junia having a great reputation among the Apostles				
13-16	11,21	Herodian, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater		My Kinsmen
17-19	5,8,9	Epaenetus, Ampliatus, Stachys		My beloved friends
20.	9	Urbanus	M	Our fellow worker
21.	21	Timothy	M	My fellow worker
Note: There isn't enough daylight to talk about Timothy. Save for later				
22.	10	Apelies	M	The Approved in Christ
23.	13	Rufus	M	A choice man
24-31	14-15	More names without credit: Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, Philologus, Nereus, Olympas		
32.	22	Tertius	M	Writer of Letter as Paul dictated
33.	23	Gaius	M	Paul's host
34.	23	Erastus	M	City Treasurer
35.	23	Quartus	M	The brother
Passage		Comments		
Romans 16:16		• Greet/Salute is used 16x in this chapter. The world will know we are Christ' by our love for each other. John 13:35		
16:17-18		• Avoid those who cause dissension (fools)..... Prov 14:7 • Why not reprove them? Titus 3:10 says to reject those after the 2 nd admonition. Contending with fools is a no win situation – when you wrestle with a pig you both get muddy and the pig likes it Prov 26:4,5; 29:9 • Parallel passages include Mat 7:15; Gal 1:8; 2Thes 3:6,14; 1Tim 6:3-5; 2Tim 3:5; Titus 3:10; 2John 1:10		
16:25-26		• Long-kept mystery now revealed – The Gospel is for ALL nations, for ALL peoples, able to save ALL those who willingly come to Jesus Christ by faith		

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- It is important to acknowledge hard working saints in our midst and to uphold them, and yes, treat them differently - Pastors, Ministers, and handworkers such as nursery/childrens workers
 - ♦ Elders (Pastors and Ministers) should receive double honor ...1Tim 5:17
 - ♦ We should bless those materially who bless us spiritually.....Acts 28:10
- All of these listed saints will hear the Lord's tribute to them "Well done thou good and faithful servant"Will we hear this about our service?

NEXT WEEK: Numbers 1. True to its name, the book of Numbers tallies the number of Jews and possessions which came out of Egypt. God uses statistics to give credence and validity to His word



Keep your eyes on those who cause problems...Rom 16:17