

Greetings to Fellow Christians; Paul's Future Ministry Plans

Romans 16

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Greetings and Love Expressed	16	1-2	Paul commends Phoebe of Cenchrea to the church in Rome
		3-16	Paul's greetings to people in Rome
		17-20a	Paul's warning to watch for divisive people
		20b-24	Greetings from people with Paul
		25-27	Benediction

Reflections

As you read through the letters of Paul, the section toward the end of his letters that are usually interesting are the greetings that are recorded. Its like Paul's thank you list to people who have partnered with him in ministry in some way. Romans 16 is no exception.

The letter to the Romans was written around 57 ad², about ten years before his execution. So it is prior to his arrest in Jerusalem and his subsequent transport to Rome as a prisoner to appear before Caesar. Some of the names on the list are familiar, some not. Some can be found in the book of Acts during Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-21:14). Others are only recorded here.

The key here is that Paul is acknowledging that we can't go through this life alone, especially if we are of the Christian faith. We are called to depend on, help, and encourage each other. Thus by Paul sending greetings to and from various people, they are recorded forever as some of the first Christians who partnered in ministry with God through Paul and others to carry the gospel to the remotest parts of the earth. Something we need to remember in the present day as well.

For myself, I suppose that my list of contacts in my LinkedIn account (or my list of friends if I still had a Facebook account) would be my list of people who I would acknowledge as having helping me through the years. Some simply through being family and friends, others as work associates in different ways, others people who I've met or who ask to be a part of my network of friends or contacts. My connection with each of them have helped me become the person I am today. Then them I say thanks.

What about you? Who would include as the people you would send greetings to like Paul?

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study³: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

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E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

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C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

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1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 (Galan et al.)

3 *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

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K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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Key Words: New Testament, Letters, Romans, Saul/Paul, Greetings, Ministry, Benediction



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Bibliography

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(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

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