

ROMANS CHAPTER 16

vs. 1-2 Phoebe, from the town of Cenchrea, the eastern seaport of Corinth (about nine miles from Corinth), is the one who will be carrying the letter.

1. She is referred to as a “deaconess” (servant) of the Church. In Acts 9:36, Tabitha (Porcas) was said to be “full of good works” but is not referred to as a deaconess.

Question: Is the term used as a functional description or as the title to an office?

Answer: The office of deacon as described in 1 Tim. 3:8, 10, 12 clearly states that a deacon is a male. 1 Tim. 3:11 may indicate that women serve in the same capacity in the Church.

By application, those who believe that the office is not restricted to men often hold that the office of elder is also open to both. 1 Tim. 5:17 with 2:12 appears to rule out this possibility.

vs. 3-4 Prisca and Aquila Acts 18:1-3 They hosted a church in their home in Ephesus. 1 Cor 16:8, 19
They were expelled from Rome in A.D. 49 or 50 when Claudias expelled the Jews (which they, therefore, must have been). They were the couple that explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately. Acts 18:24-26

vs. 5a. At the time Paul is writing, they have apparently returned to Rome and are hosting a church in their home there also.

NOTE: Some believe that due to the fact that Prisca is mentioned first here, and with the teaching of Apollos, that she was the better taught of the couple.

vs. 5b. Epaphroditus was Paul’s first convert to Christ from Asia. Even the Apostle Paul had first converts and his thought of them “moved” him.

- vs. 6 No additional information.
- vs. 7 Andronicus and Junias
1. my kinsmen – fellow Jews; Rom. 9:3-4
 2. fellow prisoners;
 3. apostles – of the church – there were only 12 apostles of Christ. Rev. 21:14 The term means “sent ones”. Who sent them defines who they are apostles of.
Also Note: Acts 14:14 Paul and Barnabas were apostles from Antioch. Acts 13:1-4 Functionally, this type of apostle would be called a missionary in our age;
 4. They were saved before Paul was.
- vs. 8 Ampliatus – another of Paul’s converts. Note that though Paul had not yet been to Rome, there were many of his converts who had migrated there.
- vs. 9 There are no names with Paul that are not connected with a thought as to who they are in Christ or how they related to his own life. Would that members of every church see their fellow believers in the same light.
- vs. 10-11 Apelles – the “approved” (proven) in Christ.
Some believe that Aristobules was the grandson of Herod the Great, brother of Herod Agrippa of Judea. If this is true, then the “household” would include the servants who would continue to bear his name. This would also carry through to the household of Narcissus. These are the only two households mentioned. Phil. 4:22
Herodian is another Jew who has become a believer.
- vs. 12 No additional information.
- vs. 13 Some believe that this Rufus is the same Rufus whose father carried Christ’s cross. Mark 15:21
In what way was his mother also Paul’s mother?
Matt. 12:48-50; John 19:26-27
- vs. 14-15 No additional information

- vs. 16 Greeting one another is mentioned 5 times:
- a. here
 - b. 1 Cor. 16:20;
 - c. 2 Cor. 13:12;
 - d. 1 Thes. 5:26;
 - e. 1 Peter 5:14

Is it cultural? Is 1 Cor. 11:4-16 cultural?

‘All the churches of Christ greet you.’ They were all in it together.

They were connected! They were not in competition!

- vs. 17 Warning! Titus 3:10; I John 4:1-6, esp. vs. 6; I2 John 10
There have been false teachers and troublemakers in the church from the very beginning.

- vs. 18 Bottom line concerning them. Phil. 3:18-20; Jer. 23:1-2;
Jer. 10:21

- vs. 19 Their reputation has been spoken of everywhere. Rom. 1:8
Still – Be Careful!
1. Wise in what is good – the heart centered on the Word of God and Phil. 4:8;
 2. innocent in what is evil I Cor. 14:20 To be innocent is to have no experiential knowledge at all.

It has been said:

1. Mad dogs are shot.
2. Infectious diseases are quarantined;
3. Evil teachers who would divide are tolerated.

What is the church thinking?

- vs. 20 No matter what things look like, soon it will be over. God will crush Satan under our feet. God will do the crushing and we will receive the benefit.

Benediction

- vs. 21 After greeting the individual Christians in Rome, Paul now

concludes with the believers in Corinth who are with him:
Timothy Phil.2:19-22
Lucius (of Cyrene) Acts 13:1
Jason Acts 17:5-9
Sosipater (of Berea – the son of Phyrrius) Acts 20:4
Again, his kinsman, Timothy, being so through his mother.

- vs. 22 Tertitus – transcribed the epistle for Paul
- vs. 23 Gaius – host to the church at Corinth in his home. He was baptized by Paul. I Cor. 1:14
Erastus, the city treasurer
Quartus, the brother
- vs. 24 Older manuscripts do not contain this verse, thus it is in brackets.
- vs. 25-27
1. Now to Him who is able – Paul is not able; only Christ is able. As beggars we are not able to feed anyone. We can only tell another where to find the food! The sufficiency always comes from Him!
 2. to establish you – these Roman believers had already become obedient. Rom. 6:17 Paul’s desire for them is that they would grow up in all aspects unto Christ. I Thes. 3:13
 3. according to – accomplished by two works:
 - a. Paul’s gospel I Cor. 15:1-8;
 - b. The preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the “mystery”.

Mystery:

1. defined – Christ in you, the hope of Glory
Col. 1:25-28; Col. 2:1-3 Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body. Eph. 3:3-12
2. A mystery because it was nowhere contemplated in the Old Testament. That Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead was no mystery.
Luke 24:44-46 What God planned to accomplish through it was that a believer is established only when he knows the riches that are in Christ Jesus.
3. This mystery is found fully developed in the New Testament epistles which are the product of the

- prophets – the Scriptures of the prophets.
4. All that was accomplished by Christ and all that has been revealed by the Scriptures is the result of the Commandment of the eternal God.
 5. The mystery has now been made known to all peoples – God is no longer keeping Himself hidden to all but the Israelites.
 6. This teaching leads to obedience of faith.
Rom. 10:13-15 (remember – salvation is not limited to going to heaven!)

vs. 27 How can this glorious book of Romans end?