

Comments About Romans 16

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will conclude this series by talking about chapter 16.

I hope this project encourages you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Three sections

Many Bible students note that the book of Romans is divided into three sections.

- The first 11 chapters deal more with spiritual concepts of God's righteousness.
- Chapters 12 through 15 are a section discussing various Christian-living principles.
- Chapter 16 is the conclusion of the letter that includes personal comments from the apostle Paul to many of his coworkers.

Commended Phoebe

At the beginning of chapter 16, Paul paid a heartfelt compliment to a woman named Phoebe (verses 1-2).

Romans 16:1-2—"I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also."

Priscilla and Aquila

Paul proceeded to mention Priscilla and Aquila (verses 3-5).

Romans 16:3-5—"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house."

Notice another section in the Bible where they are mentioned.

Acts 18:2-3—"And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So,

because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.”

Acts 18:26—“So he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

List of helpers

- Romans 16 also included a list of lesser-known people who helped Paul as they sought to serve the Lord (verses 5-15).
- Paul referred to the greeting called the “holy kiss” (verse 16). It was also mentioned in 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; and 1 Peter 5:14.

Avoid divisive people

- Paul encouraged disciples to avoid divisive people (verse 17).
- Such people often use smooth words and flattering speech to deceive people, as they are more concerned about their livelihood than serving the Lord Jesus Christ (verse 18).
- Be wise in what is good and simple concerning evil (verse 19).
- The God of peace will triumph (verse 20).

Concluding comments

- Some of Paul’s friends sent their greetings (verse 21).
- The scribe of the letter (Tertius) sent his greetings (verse 22).
- Other of Paul’s friends sent their greetings (verse 23).
- Romans 16:24 sounds like a concluding comment.
- Some people place Romans 16:25-27 at the end of Romans 14. Otherwise, these verses sound like some additional concluding comments.