

# 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.