

Romans 16

Greetings (vv1-16)

- A small but precious window into the life of the early church.
 - Women in ministry and in the church
 - Eg. Phoebe
 - Commendations from Paul
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- Diversity
 - ...in race; in class; in gender
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- “apostles” – “sent ones”
 - *There are Apostles and there are apostles.*
 - Early Church Structure
 - *House churches*
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Watch Out! (vv17-20)

- ...for those who cause division
- ...for those who create obstacles
 - ...for those who “*are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites*” (v18).

- **How can we tell who to stay away from?**
 - They teach and do what is “*contrary to the teaching you have been taught.*” (v17).
 - By their “*smooth talk and flattery*”
 - **Measure what they say against the gospel!**
 - They serve themselves, not Christ (v18)

- *“Be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil” (v19)*
 - Keep on learning, and refuse to have anything to do with evil.
 - Does it agree with Scripture?
 - Does it glorify the Lord Jesus?
 - Does it promote goodness?

 - *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (v 20).*
 - The deceiver and divider will soon be destroyed!
 - *Under YOUR feet!*
 - *Daily... and definitively...*
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More Greetings... (vv21-24)

- this time, from those in Corinth with Paul, to Rome

Glory to God – Doxology (vv25-27)

- God is able to strengthen/establish you
 - *The gospel is not only the entry point into the Christian life; it is also the way we continue in, grow in and enjoy life with Christ. (Tim Keller)*
 - **How?**
 - ...according to the gospel
 - ...according to the preaching of Jesus Christ
 - ...according to the revelation of the mystery
 - ...according to the command of the eternal God
 - *to bring about the obedience of faith.*
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To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.
(Romans 16:27)