

Bible Study Guide – Romans 16:1-27

Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring / Summer 2018

24 people mentioned by name...Why so many?

-Col 4:7-18

-Paul is taking advantage of all the ties he has with this congregation

Saints:

-Believers, Not Dead Christians

-Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2, II Cor 1:1, Phi 1:1; Eph 1:1, Col 1:2

Priscilla and Aquila:

- A wife and husband who assisted Paul in his missionary work (Acts 18:2-3)

- They helped establish the church in Ephesus / met in their house (Acts 18:18; 1 Cor 16:19)

- They put their lives in danger for Paul's sake, possibly during the riot in Ephesus (Acts 19)

Aristobulus:

- Possibly a grandson of Herod the Great

-Probably refers to the slaves of Aristobulus

Holy Kiss:

- 1Co 16:20; 2Co 13:12; 1Th 5:26

- An expression of Christian love

- A kiss upon the brow, cheek, or hands was a common greeting in ancient times

This chapter continues the final remarks that began at Rom 15:14

- ¹I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a **servant** of the church at **Cenchreae**,
- ²that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the **saints**, and help her in whatever she may need from you,² for she has been a **patron** of many and of myself as well.
- ³Greet **Prisca and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- ⁴who **risked their necks for my life**, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. **First Convert = Lit First Fruit**
- ⁵Greet also the **church in their house**. Greet my beloved Epäenetus, who was the **first convert** to Christ in Asia.
- ⁶Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.
- ⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the **apostles**, and they were in Christ before me.
- ⁸Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.
- ⁹Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.
- ¹⁰Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the **family of Aristobulus**.
- ¹¹Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the **family of Narcissus**.
- ¹²Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.
- ¹³Greet **Rufus**, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.
- ¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.
- ¹⁵Greet **Philologus**, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the **saints** who are with them.
- ¹⁶Greet one another with a **holy kiss**. All the churches of Christ greet you.

δίακονος (diakonos):
Servant or Deaconess

Phoebe:

- Lit **Bright** or **Radiant**

- Name derived from Greek god Apollo

- **Patron = προστάτις (prostatis), Helper**

- From Cenchreae and likely stopped at Corinth on her way to Rome

- Likely a Gentile Christian who delivered Paul's letter

Apostles:

- This designation may be used in a generic sense to refer to missionaries who were **sent out** (2 Cor 8:23)

Narcissus:

- Possibly the Narcissus who was freed from slavery and served the Roman emperor, Claudius

-Probably refers to the slaves of Narcissus

Rufus:

- Possibly the son of Simon of Cyrene (Mark 15:21)

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How can we defend ourselves against this threat today?

Acts 20:25-35
2Tim 4:3-5

Rom 1:8, 15:14

Gen 3:15

¹⁷I appeal to you, brothers, to **watch out** for those who *cause divisions* and *create obstacles* contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; **avoid them**.

¹⁸For such persons do not *serve* our Lord Christ, *but their own appetites*, and by *smooth talk* and *flattery* they deceive the hearts of the naive.

¹⁹For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.

²⁰The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

²¹**Timothy**, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

²²I **Tertius**, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³**Gaius**, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. **Erastus**, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you.

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages

Rom 3:21 – “But now”

²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

²⁷to the **only wise** God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Timothy:

- Joined Paul at Lystra during his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16:2-3)

- Frequent companion of Paul (2Co 1:1; Phi 1:1; Col 1:1; 1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:1; Phlm 1)

- Minister in Ephesus (1Ti 1:3)

Erastus:

- Possibly a co-worker that Paul sent to Macedonia (Acts 19:22)

Only → 1Ti 1:17

Wise → Rom 11:33

Tertius:

- Paul's amanuensis (secretary or scribe)

- 2Th 3:7

Gaius:

- Likely a convert at Corinth, baptized by Paul (1Co 1:14)

- Further indication this letter was written from Corinth

- Possibly same man as Titius Justus - *Romans often had 3 names* (Acts 18:7)

- There are 2 other men names Gaius in the NT (Acts 20:4; 3 John 1)

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Romans Chapter 16 - Questions for Discussion

What is Paul's final warning to these Christians? How can we defend ourselves against this threat today? (vv. 16:17-18)

Greetings

Colossians 4:7–18 (ESV)

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. ¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. ¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord." ¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Diakonos

1356 διάκονος (*diakonos*), ου (*ou*), ò (*ho*) and ή (*hē*): n.masc. and fem.; ≡ Str 1249; TDNT 2.88—**1.** LN 35.20 **servant**, one who serves, without necessarily having the office of deacon (Mt 20:26; Ro 16:1; Eph 6:21; 1Th 3:2 v.r.), for another interp of Ro and Eph, see next; **2.** LN 53.67 **deacon**, one entrusted to serve the needs of believers (Php 1:1; Ro 16:1; Eph 6:21; 1Ti 3:8, 12), for another interp of the Roman's & Ephesian's passage, see prior¹

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Definition	“one who serves”; “servant”; “attendant”; “agent”; “assistant”
English Translation	Versions
servant	LEB; NASB; NIV; NLT; ESV
minister	LEB; KJV
deacon	LEB; NIV; NLT; ESV; KJV; NASB
New Testament Occurrences	
Gospels	8
Acts	0
Paul’s Letters	21
General Letters	0
Revelation	0
Total NT Uses	29

The word *diakonos* has a basic sense of “servant” or “messenger” in both the NT and secular Greek literature. This generic sense is applied to Tychicus, a faithful *diakonos* in the Lord who delivered Paul’s letters to the church congregations at Ephesus and Colossae (Eph 6:21–22; Col 4:7). The term was later used to designate someone holding an official position of church leadership, often called a deacon (1 Tim 3:8, 12).

Jesus taught that believers should voluntarily be a *diakonos* for other believers, motivated and inspired by His own example of service (Matt 20:26–28). He also used the term to describe the relationship of His followers to Himself (John 12:26).

Paul used the term to denote secular government officials as *diakonois* (plural of *diakonos*) of God (Rom 13:4) and false apostles as a *diakonois* of Satan (2 Cor 11:13–15). He also referred to himself as one who was a *diakonos* for the transmission of the gospel (Col 1:23). All this establishes that the term alone did not necessarily have a sacred or secular connotation.

The use of *diakonos* in connection with the office of overseer or elder suggests the role of the deacon in the early church was to assist the overseers or elders in caring for the needs of the church (Phil 1:1; compare Acts 6:1–4). The office of deacon likely did not carry the same level of authority over the church as that of overseer (see 1 Tim 3:1–13)...DAVID SEAL²

Cenchreae

Cenchreae, the modern Kichries, a town near Corinth which served as outpost for the city, handling its traffic with the Aegean and the Levant. Cenchreae had a church in which Phoebe served (Rom. 16:1–2); this was perhaps a fruit of Paul’s long stay in Corinth. Here the apostle shaved his head, in observance of a vow he had taken (Acts 18:18), prior to leaving for Ephesus...J. H. Paterson.³

² Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

³ Paterson, J. H. (1996). Cenchreae. In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer & D. J. Wiseman, Ed.) (3rd ed.) (179). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

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Cenchreae (sen'kree-uh), a harbor seven miles east of Corinth on the Saronic Gulf, used for trade with Asia. Here, prior to sailing to Ephesus during his second journey, Paul shaved his head (Acts 18:18-20). Cenchreae was the home of Phoebe (Rom. 16:1).⁴

Patron

4706 προστάτις (*prostatis*), ἰδος (*idos*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 4368—LN 35.13 **helper** (Ro 16:2+)⁵

Saints

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1 (ESV)

¹Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Priscilla and Aquila

Acts 18:2–3 (ESV)

²And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

⁴ Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row, & Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). *Harper's Bible dictionary* (1st ed.) (159). San Francisco: Harper & Row.

⁵ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Acts 18:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

Acts 19:21–41 (ESV)

²¹ Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” ²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. ²³ About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.” ²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel. ³⁰ But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. ³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. ³² Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ³⁵ And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

1 Corinthians 16:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

Apostles

2 Corinthians 8:23 (ESV)

²³ As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

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Rufus

Mark 15:21 (ESV)

²¹ And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

Holy Kiss

1 Corinthians 16:20 (ESV)

²⁰ All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV)

¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Thessalonians 5:26 (ESV)

²⁶ Greet all the brothers with a holy kiss.

Threats

Acts 20:25–35 (ESV)

²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

2 Timothy 4:3–5 (ESV)

³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

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Reputation of Romans

Romans 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Romans 15:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Crush Satan

Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:15 (NIV84)

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Timothy

Acts 16:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Philippians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

Colossians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

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Philemon 1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker

1 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)

³ As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine,

Paul's Scribe

2 Thessalonians 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write.

Gaius

1 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

Acts 18:7 (ESV)

⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.

Acts 20:4 (ESV)

⁴ Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

3 John 1 (ESV)

¹ The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

Only / Wise

1 Timothy 1:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans 11:33 (ESV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!