



Romans

Right With God

Goodbye

Romans 16

Lesson Forty-Seven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Seven

Page 2 of 4

Goodbye

Chapter sixteen of Romans is a long goodbye from Paul to the church in Rome. He has dealt with some of the most difficult issues in early Christianity. He has been open and honest about things the church is facing and how they can deal with them. He has used harsh language and compassionate words. He has written one to the most important books in the New Testament. Now he comes to the end of the letter and makes it very personal.

He begins, in verse one with a list of names that is very impressive. Read Romans 16:1, 2. Phoebe (pronounced, Fee'-be) was most likely going to deliver the letter to Rome. He wants her to be treated like the best of the saints would be treated. He calls her a helper of helpers. She has helped Paul.

Next he sends generous greetings to Priscilla and Aquila (pronounced, Uh-kwil'-la). He says that they risked their lives for him, that was probably in Corinth where he met them and was in the tent-making business with them. He says that they have a great reputation in all the non-Jewish churches and especially in the church that met in their house, obviously in Rome.

He goes on to list several friends and former co-workers. A few of the greetings have special interest: Andronicus (An-dron'-ic-us) and Junias (Jun-I'-ahs) who were relatives of Paul, maybe cousins, and who had been in prison with Paul. Junias is a female name and she is called an apostle. We don't know what prison they shared...Philippi or Ephesus? These two preceded Paul as Christians, so they went back to the first church in Jerusalem.

In verse thirteen, Paul mentions Rufus. Read Romans 16:13. Some believe that Rufus was the son of Simon, the Cyrenian who helped Jesus carry the cross up the hill of Calvary. The mother of Rufus must have been very kind to Paul at some time in the past and Paul wants the whole church to know he appreciates her.

Then Paul mentions some one named Nereus and his sister. Read Romans 16:15. There is a most interesting story here. It seems that several years after Paul, a husband and wife were condemned for being Christians. The husband was Flavius Clemens, Consul of Rome, and the wife was Domatilla, granddaughter of former Emperor Vespasian. The husband was executed and the wife was banished to a remote island to die there. History tells us that the head of the household of Flavius and Domatilla was a man named Nereus. Could this have been the same man, and could he have been the one who led this couple to faith in Christ?

Then Paul sends one more greeting. Read Romans 16:16. Since he can't be there to place a

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Five
Page 3 of 4

Holy kiss on each of them, he encourages them to kiss one another. Then as a representative of all the churches of Christ, he forward's their greetings.

Paul has a word of warning. He wants the Romans to beware of those who cause arguments, who by "smooth talk and flattery" lead people the wrong way. He expresses confidence in their obedience to right things.

He ends his goodbye with greetings from several. Read Romans 16:21-24. Included in that group are Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Erastus and Quartus. He singles out Gaius, probably his host in Corinth, as he writes this letter. For the first and only time a secretary to Paul, Tertius, identifies himself.

Finally, Paul lifts up a prayer for the church in Rome. Read Romans 16:25-27. Amen!

Scripture Memory: "To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever. Amen." Romans 16:27

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to imitate Paul's graciousness and compassion.

1. If you are teaching this lesson, it would be a good idea to search the web, or look at some commentaries, to get an in-depth look at all that is found here. This is particularly true of the names Paul mentions. The writer of this series of lessons has tried to mention a few, and why they might be included in the closing verses of this great letter. However, it is impossible in these short paragraphs to deal with all these persons and their stories.
2. One example is what Paul says about Tryphaena and Tryphogsa. These two were probably twins. He tells them hello and comments on their working "hard in the Lord." Paul used a word for work here that means wearing yourself out working. It is working to exhaustion, It seems like Paul is incorporating a little humor here. Their names mean, respectively, dainty and delicate. So what Paul really says is, "People know you as dainty and delicate, but they ought to see you as the hardest of workers, wearing yourselves out for the Lord."
3. To get the full story on Rufus, you need to go back to Mark 15:21. Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry the cross of Jesus. Simon is referred to there as being the father of Alexander and Rufus. Very likely, Simon was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, and later led his family to that faith. Mark identifies Simon by referring to the names of his sons. One would likely do that if the father wasn't well known, but the sons were. Some speculate that it was Simon who with other men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and became the first missionaries to the Gentiles. Acts 11:20. Acts 19:33 tells us that the Jewish Christians pushed a man named Alexander forward to confront the crowd that was going to kill Paul. Then Paul mentions these two men here in Romans 16. Coincidence, maybe so.
4. This series of lessons has focused on Paul's passion for the Roman church and his great interest in their success. The church was having difficulties. Paul expected to go to them and have fellowship with them. They needed to correct some problems, many of them caused by Jewish—Gentile conflict. That conflict had led to a mass deportation of Jews and Christians only a few years before Paul's letter. Paul would get to Rome later, but only as a prisoner.

Romans

Right With God

Lesson Forty-Six

Page 4 of 4

Student Worksheet

Goodbye

=Romans is one to the most important _____ in the New Testament.

=He begins, in verse one with a list of _____ that is very impressive: Phoebe, Priscilla and Aquila, Andronicus and Junias, Rufus, Nereus and his sister among many others.

=Since he can't be there to place a Holy _____ on each of them, he encourages them to _____ one another.

=Paul has a word of _____. He wants the Romans to beware of those who _____, who by "smooth talk and flattery" lead people the _____ way. He expresses confidence in their _____ to right things.

=He ends his _____ with greetings from several. Included in that group are Timothy, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater, Erastus and Quartus. He singles out _____, probably his host in Corinth, as he writes this letter. For the _____ and only, time a secretary to Paul, _____, identifies himself.

**Scripture Memory: "To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever. Amen."
Romans 16:27**

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.