

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 5 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 15:14–16:27

Looking Back—Paul's Ministry in the East

15:14 But I myself am fully convinced about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

15 But I have written more boldly to you on some points so as to remind you, because of the grace given to me by God

16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I serve the gospel of God like a priest, so that the Gentiles may become an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

17 So I boast in Christ Jesus about the things that pertain to God.

18 For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in order to bring about the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed,

19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem even as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

20 And in this way I desire to preach where Christ has not been named, so as not to build on another person's foundation,

21 but as it is written: *"Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."* [[Isa 52:15](#)]

Looking Ahead—Paul's Plans for Jerusalem, Rome and Spain

22 This is the reason I was often hindered from coming to you.

23 But now there is nothing more to keep me in these regions, and I have for many years desired to come to you

24 when I go to Spain. For I hope to visit you when I pass through and that you will help me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

25 But now I go to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.

26 For Macedonia and Achaia are pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

27 For they were pleased to do this, and indeed they are indebted to the Jerusalem saints. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are obligated also to minister to them in material things.

28 Therefore after I have completed this and have safely delivered this bounty to them, I will set out for Spain by way of you,

29 and I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of Christ's blessing.

A Request for Prayer

30 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to join fervently with me in prayer to God on my behalf.

31 Pray that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea and that my ministry in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

33 Now may the God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Commendation of Phoebe

16:1 Now I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

2 so that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and provide her with whatever help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many, including me.

Greetings to Roman Brothers and Sisters

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

4 who risked their own necks for my life. Not only I, but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

5 Also greet the church in their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

6 Greet Mary, who has worked very hard for you.

7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my compatriots and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

8 Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.

9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my good friend Stachys.

10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

11 Greet Herodion, my compatriot. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, laborers in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother who was also a mother to me.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters with them.

15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the believers who are with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

A Warning, a Promise and a Prayer for Grace

17 Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them!

18 For these are the kind who do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By their smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of the naive.

19 Your obedience is known to all and thus I rejoice over you. But I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

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

Greetings from Paul's Companions

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

22 I, Tertius, who am writing 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.

24 [*Mss uncertainty favors the omission of v. 24*]

Closing Doxology

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

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

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever! Amen.

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