



# The Salvation Series

Part 23 – Final Greetings

# Introduction...

- **Romans 16** is often overlooked because it's filled with personal greetings and names....
- However, it's *rich in spiritual depth, relationships, and insight into early Christian life.*
- In this session, we will be reflecting on Romans 16 and allowing the illumination of the Spirit to give us nuggets of wisdom, insights and revelation.



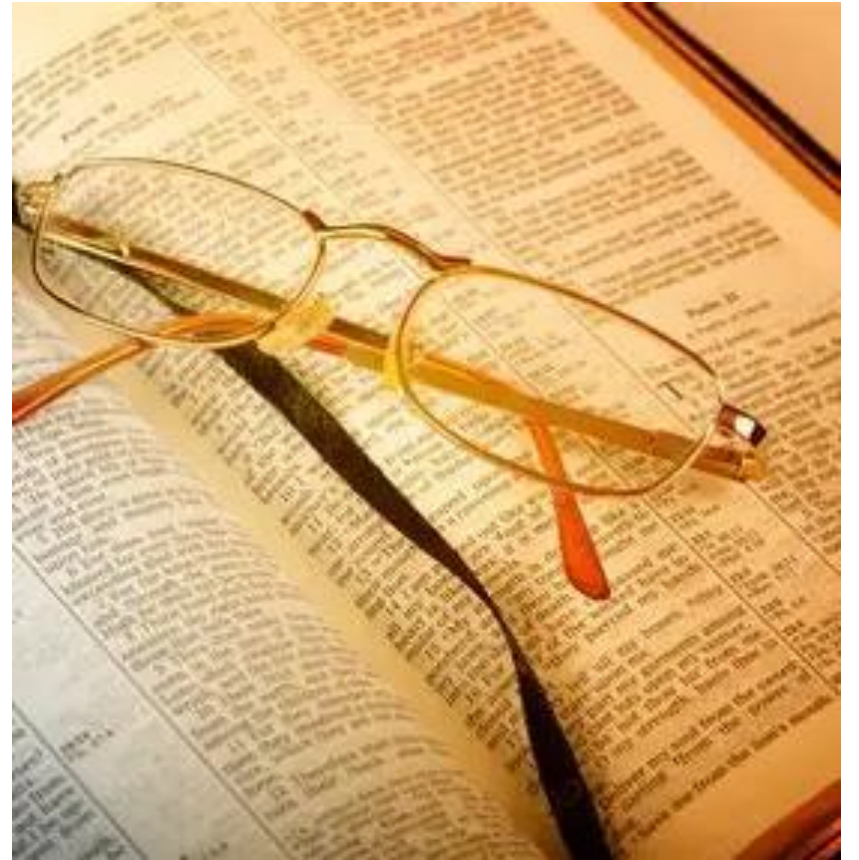
# Bible Reading...

- I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, <sup>2</sup>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.
- <sup>3</sup>Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, <sup>4</sup>who risked their own necks for my life,
- to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. <sup>5</sup>Likewise greet the church that is in their house.
- Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of <sup>[a]</sup>Achaia to Christ. <sup>6</sup>Greet Mary, who labored much for us.
- <sup>7</sup>Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- <sup>8</sup>Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- <sup>10</sup>Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus. <sup>11</sup>Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the *household* of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup>Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord. <sup>1</sup>
- <sup>3</sup>Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. <sup>14</sup>Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them.
- <sup>15</sup>Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.
- <sup>16</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>[c]</sup>The churches of Christ greet you.

# Reflection...

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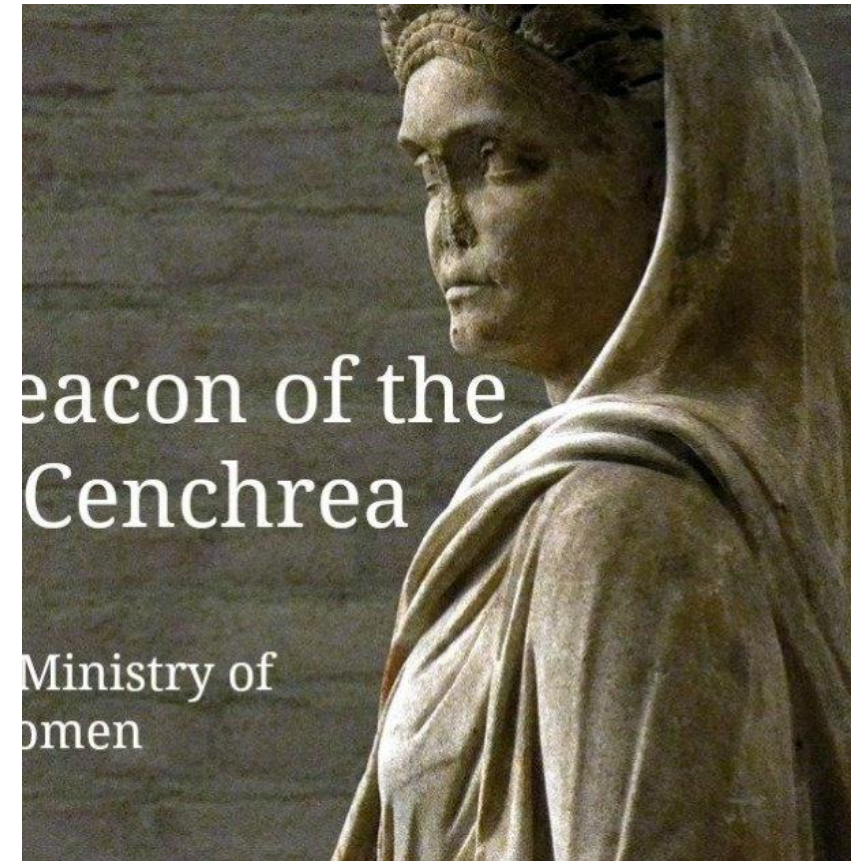
- One of the first things to note is that this IS Scripture as written by the Holy Spirit through Paul.
- At first glance it appears trivial or a waste of space to spend this amount of time on Greetings.
- A deeper reflection reveals a number of things:
- **EVERONE IS IMPORTANT!**
- God **SEES** everybody, no matter how large or small their contribution.
- It tells us to **NOTE** everyone in our lives and be **GRATEFUL** for their contributions to your life.
- How many of us have gone back to thank the **BABYSITTER** who took care of us, or the primary school teacher or nursery personnel that helped lay the foundation of our learning and life development...?



# Phoebe.

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- Phoebe – Its interesting that in such a Patriarchal society and era, a WOMAN is listed first.
- This shows the value of Women serving in Ministry and Paul commends her to the saints in Rome.
- There are at least 9 Women mentioned by name in this chapter.
- Later in our “Letters Series” we will address the debate about Women in ministry.
- The Early and Modern Church is full of the vitality, Innovation, role and power from the Female gender.
- May we learn in these last days to humbly accept and embrace the unique Grace upon our Women.



# Priscilla.

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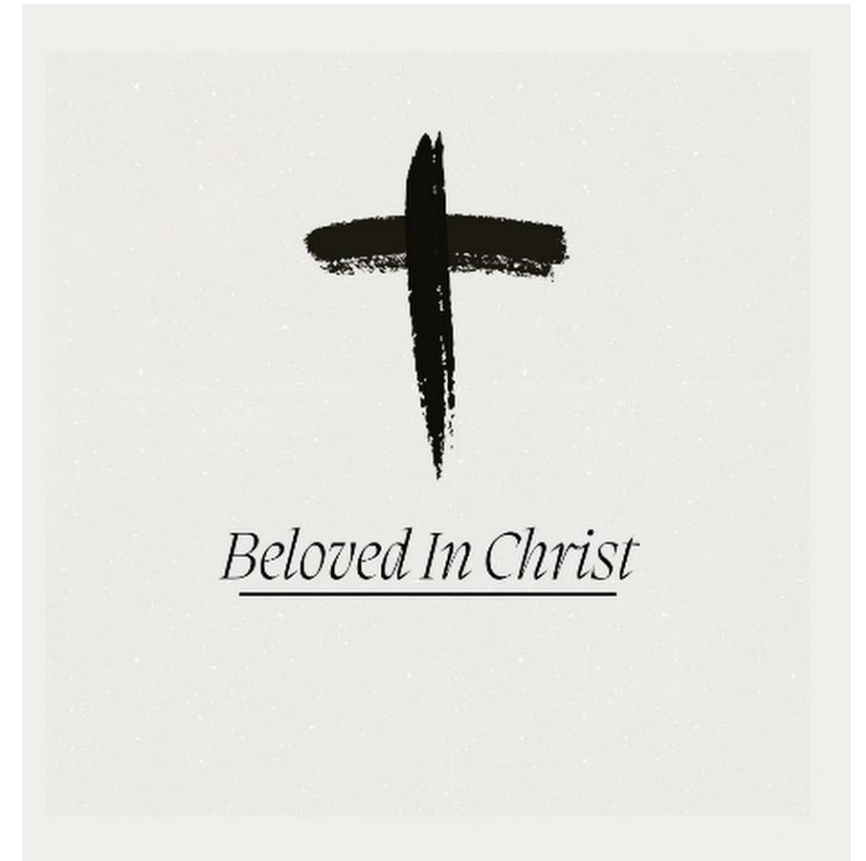
- Greet Priscilla and Aquila...
- In Bible tradition and writing, generally (not always), the person mentioned first is primary within that context.
- Here Priscilla is mentioned first and its not an accident. It shows her important role as a capable and equal minister with her husband Aquila.
- There was a church that met in their home. This points to the organization of the Early Christians where the congregations met within the houses of Believers.
- They risked their lives...
- This shows the depth of their relationship, and it reached the level of life itself.



# First Convert

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- Epaenetus was one of the Paul's first converts in Achaia
- He uses the word "beloved" which indicates the deep connection they had.
- Greet Mary... who laboured much for us. She went out of her way to help them.
- Question – what feeling comes to mind when people mention your name?
- We need to leave a legacy of Grace and God's anointing upon people. So that they remember you with positivity not negativity.



# Noteworthy...

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- Greet Andronicus and Junia...
- By plain logic, this mention is of a couple. If so, then Junia IS an Apostle!
- This is another debate relating to the role of Women. Which we will deal with in another series.
- Paul mentions them as fellow prisoners. As well as that they are Outstanding amongst the Apostles.
- They were also older in the faith than Paul and possibly from the same region as Paul.



# The List...

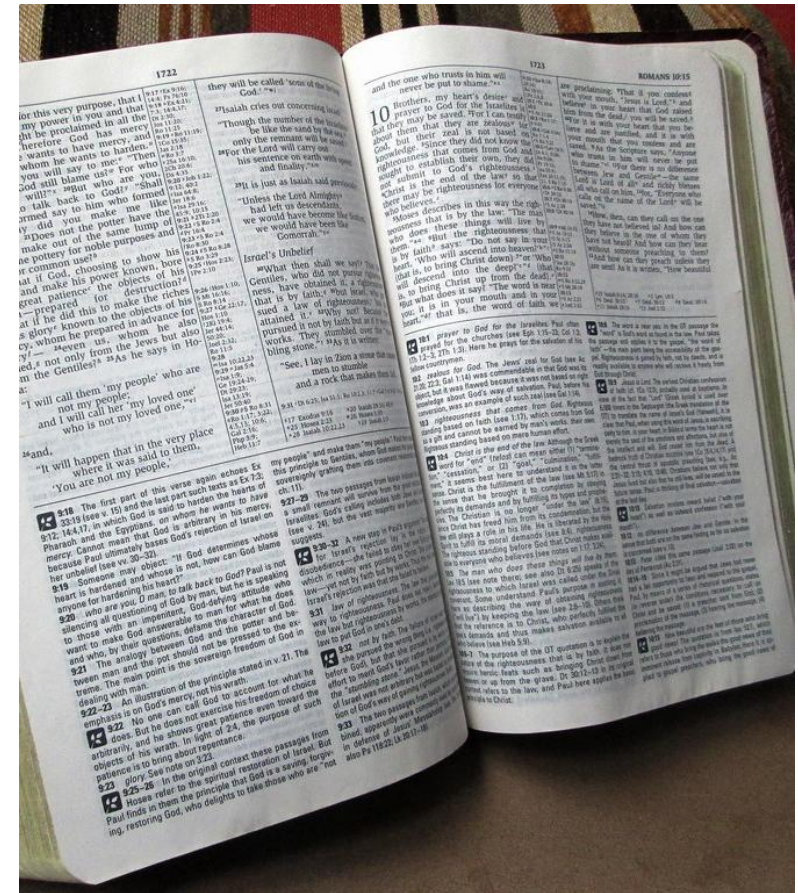
- Amplias – Beloved in the Lord
- Urbanus – Fellow worker
- Stachys – My beloved
- Apelles – Approved in Christ
- Aristobulus – a Household
- Herodion – my countryman
- Narcissus – Lord’s Household
- Tryphena/Tryphosa – Labourers
- Persis – Labourer and Beloved
- Rufus – Chosen in the Lord
- Rufus’s Mother – Paul’s too
- Asyncritus et al – a church
- Philologus et al – a church

And  
the  
Oscar  
Goes To...



# Bible Reading...

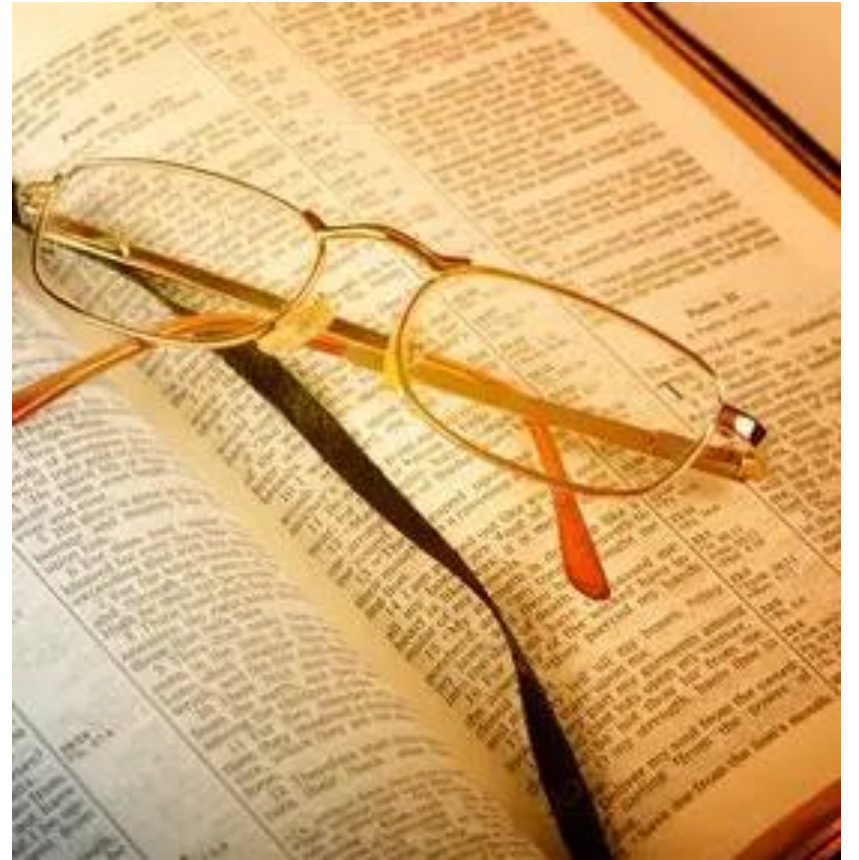
- **17** Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.
- **18** For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.
- **19** For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.
- **20** And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.
- The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. Romans 16:17-20



# Reflection..

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- Paul urges the believers to actively guard against those who disrupt unity and oppose sound teaching.
- His solution is not debate or negotiation, but avoidance. This is a protective boundary.
- False teachers often come from within the church.
- The unity of the body is precious so doctrine and love must go hand-in-hand.
- It is not unloving to separate from divisive or heretical influences



# False Teachers...

- **“Do not serve our Lord Christ”** – Their allegiance is not to Jesus, regardless of outward appearances.
- **“Their own appetites” (koilia):** Literally “belly”; a metaphor for selfish desires—greed, ego, comfort, or control.
- **“Smooth talk and flattery”** – Persuasive speech designed to **manipulate**, not teach.
- **“Deceive the naive”** – They prey on the unsuspecting, often those immature in faith.
- The church must be discerning—not everyone who sounds “spiritual” or “wise” is speaking truth
- False teachers are often charming, likable, and persuasive, but spiritually toxic



# Innocent...

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- Paul affirms the Roman church—they are known for obedience to Christ. But even faithful believers need continual vigilance.
- Be wise about good – Understand and embrace what is righteous and true.
- Be innocent about evil – Stay uncorrupted; don't study or engage in evil in order to fight it.
- Spiritual maturity is not knowing all about evil but being rooted in good.
- There's a balance: wisdom with purity. The enemy wants to blur that line.



# Crush...

- *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*
- God of peace” seems ironic
- He brings peace by crushing Satan
- This is a revelation – Christ is the Prince of Peace.
- God’s Peace eliminates Satan's chaos!
- We overcome the enemy’s strategy by entering God’s Presence and Peace.



# Bible Reading....

- *<sup>21</sup> Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.*
- *<sup>22</sup> I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.*
- *<sup>23</sup> Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.*
- *<sup>24</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*
- *<sup>25</sup> Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ,*
- *according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began*
- *<sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations,*
- *according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—*
- *<sup>27</sup> to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.*  
*Romans 16:21-27*

# The END....

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- Take time to read and reflect on the scriptures regularly.
- Journal, write down, mull over your thoughts.
- Make the Scriptures your own.
- Digest, eat, dwell on the scriptures daily.
- Allow the Word to scan your heart. Be renewed and transformed as you think on scriptures
- Read Paul's Epistles yourself.
- Share the Word with your Family

