

Greetings!

Romans 16:1-27

Getting Started

This morning we recognized the 2008 High School graduates. Of course there are others who have just recently graduated from college, earned a graduate degree, etc. Have any of you recently passed a similar milestone? What about other family members? How did/do you feel?



In the Word (The text for this week's discussion is Romans 16. We were to have finished the study of Romans last week; this morning's emphasis suggested a need for more attention Romans 16.)

Groups are not expected to discuss all questions!

1. Begin with just a general overview of the sixteenth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans.
 - a. Romans 16:1-2, Commendation of Phoebe
 - b. Romans 16:3-5, Greetings to Priscilla, Aquila, and Epenetus
 - c. Romans 16:6-16, Greetings to a host of others
 - d. Romans 16:17-20, Caution concerning those who cause division
 - e. Romans 16:21-24, Greetings from Paul's Fellow workers
 - f. Romans 16:25-27, Paul's Doxology
2. Review of Romans 16:1-16
 - a. What are some "highlights" of this list? What is significant about the individuals mentioned?
 - b. Who was Phoebe? What did Paul say about her? Anything else here you'd wish to discuss?
 - c. For more information on Priscilla, Aquila, Epenetus look at Acts 18. What does Paul have to say about them? (Note: Priscilla and Aquila are Jews; Epenetus is a Gentile name; where does the church mentioned meet? Does the mention of these three correspond to any emphasis in Romans?)
 - d. Read through the rest of the names and note what Paul said was significant about each.
3. Review Romans 16:17-20; In what way(s) do these verses correspond to what Paul penned earlier in the letter to the Romans?
 - a. Who could or had been causing division in the Roman Church? How? What kind of "obstacles"?
 - b. If you were to share a similar warning as is found in 16:19, how would you word it?
 - c. Why would Paul add Romans 16:20? What value does such a statement have for believers?

Application

1. Well, an obvious application deals with voicing appreciation (recognition?) for what others have done for our sake and for the sake of the Kingdom of God. How are you doing in this area?
2. Look at Romans 16:25-27. How has the "mystery" been revealed? Who does God want to obey him? Can you see why our shepherds wish to promote and encourage bible study? What are you doing this week to better understand God's revelation? How can the group help one another in its proclamation?

Prayer Time:

As a church we have been called to join Paul, the church at Rome, and Christians throughout the ages in the proclamation of the gospel. Note Paul's "doxology." How can we praise God in our prayers tonight? How can the group help you (as Paul was helped by those to whom he sent greetings)?