

Romans 16:5-16

Greetings to the Churches

1. 16:5 - Church in Their House

- a. 3x in this chapter churches in houses are mentioned, at least 5 groups, 28+ people.
- b. Churches in houses were common b/c they were cheap, small, and secret.
- c. The "house church" movement is a reaction against church as business and buildings.
- d. The place not as important as the preaching, purpose, and people - 1 Cor 3:16, 1 Tim 3:15
- e. In the 1st century many saints gathered in houses and halls, but also caves and rivers.
- f. Paul repented on a road, praised in a jail, preached on a boat, met daily in a school.
- g. God does not dwell in temples made with hands anymore - Acts 17:24, 18:7
- h. Churches gathered in houses and other larger venues - Acts 19:9, 20:7-8,20, 1Cor 11:22
- i. Wealthier saints donated bigger places – Matt 26:18, 27:57, Acts 1:14-15
- j. Priscilla and Aquila had a church in their house (in Rome and Ephesus?) - 1 Cor 16:19
- k. Praise God for the truth that the church of God is people not a place!

2. 16:5-7 - Firstfruits and Apostles

- a. Achaia is the province around Corinth - Epaphroditus was the firstfruits there, but Acts 18?
- b. Was it Epaphroditus or Stephanus? Trust your Bible to be right – 1 Cor 16:15
- c. Many Marys (also Mark, James), not all the same person - Mat 27:56, Acts 1:14
- d. "my kinsmen" more Jews, apparently noteworthy among apostles - Luke 10:1
- e. Other apostles besides the twelve - Acts 14:14, 1 Cor 4:9, Gal 1:19, 1 Thess 2:6

3. 16:7 – In Christ Before Me

- a. You could be "in Christ before Paul" because Christ was before Paul.
- b. To Paul was revealed the "mystery of..." = His Body, a new creature.
- c. Paul was given the mystery of God's will to have "all things in Christ" - Eph 1:10
- d. All things are 1) heavenly (body, mystery) and 2) earthly things (Israel, prophecy)
- e. This means that all in the OT, NT, Mystery will be "in Him" = "in Christ"
- f. This list of names consists of different geographies, genders, positions, all in the Lord.

4. 16:8-16 - Beloved in the Lord

- a. 8-9 - These saints are all "beloved" and "in the Lord" and fellow laborers (mentioned once)
- b. These salutations mark beloved ministers as approved worthy of respect, honor, trust.
- c. 10-11 - "household" - Also Philemon 2, Nymphas Col 4:19, and others in houses.
- d. 11 - "my kinsman" - Relation to Paul as a Jew, both Jews and Gentiles on this list.
- e. 12 - "who labour in the Lord" – as women beloved by Paul.
- f. 13 - "his mother and mine" – Rufus (Mk 15:21?), Paul knew him and his mother.
- g. 14, 15 - "with them" - The church takes many members, and there are many others.
- h. 16 - "an holy kiss" - speaks to sincere pure affection, not feigned, betrayal, hypocritical.
- i. No spiritual benefit from touching lips, cheeks, beards, pews, or sanctuaries.