

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Closing Remarks on the Gospel of Grace
Romans 16

Last time...in Rom 15,

- the conclusion of the application of grace whereby we keep/live the Royal Law
- by obedience to the Scriptures, we have...and we share...
 - patience...cheerful endurance
 - consolation...solace
 - hope...confident expectation
 - peace...quietness of mind and spirit in a world gone mad

This time...we will conclude this masterpiece of the doctrine of grace – Rom 16

v1-2 Paul begins the wrap-up of his letter to the church at Rome by commending/introducing Phebe to them

- a sister in the Lord...female (there are only 2 genders!)
 - literature of that era did not mention women
 - the Bible today faces slander from secular humanism as being misogynistic...sexist, prejudiced against women
 - they are liars and deceivers
 - they are ignorant, having not carefully read the Bible, of the honor God places upon women
- a servant of the church at Cenchrea
 - no greater “title” or commendation of a person in God’s worldview!
 - the seaport of Corinth
- a succourer of many and of Paul himself
 - helper
 - patroness
 - assistant
 - deaconess

What is the purpose of Paul’s introduction of Phebe to the fellowship in Rome?

- To receive/accept her...as his letter carrier (postscript after v27)
 - in the Lord
 - family, she is your sister too
 - a fellow servant of the Lord
 - as is becoming/right/proper of saints/children of God
 - with love and grace
 - with all gladness (Phil 2:29a)
- To assist/help her however she needs help
 - If we can help another, we are to help, as ministers/servants of The Lord Jesus Christ

Now, in v3-15, Paul, from Corinth on his 3rd Missionary Journey, sends greetings (“Greet” = “Salute”) to 29 individuals he knows in the fellowship at Rome

- people with whom he has a relationship in Christ
- part of the reason for

Rom 15:14

Rom 15:23-24

Rom 15:32

v3-4 Priscilla and Aquila

Acts 18:1-6

Acts 18:9-11

on his 2nd Missionary Journey

they were co-laborers with Paul in Corinth

Priscilla is...female

During which time Priscilla and Aquila hazarded their very lives for Paul and his ministry of preaching the

Gospel

Acts 18:18-21

leaving P&A at Ephesus

Now, they are back in Rome

v5a Greet also the church that meets in their house

House churches, a small Body of like-minded believers,

- like at the beginning in Jerusalem (Acts 5:42)
- in the days of the early Church
- like this one unto this very day

A church is group of people in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with each other

A church is a Body, an organism, moving about in a community and engaging the people of the world with a message of God’s grace, love, hope and peace

A church is NOT

- a man-made brand, a logo
- an imposing structure of brick and mortar

v5b Epaenetus

The first convert of many converts unto the Lord from Paul’s preaching in Corinth

Now, he is in Rome

v6 Mary

- female
- a very hard worker alongside Paul in the ministry, parts unrecorded but known
1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast,
unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the
Lord.
- now in Rome...and undoubtedly still working hard for the Lord

v7 Andronicus and Junia

- Jewish man and woman (Junia is a female name)
- fellow prisoners with Paul
 - where?
 - when?
 - an unrecorded prison ministry
- of note among the apostles
 - from the church in Jerusalem
 - imprisoned by the Jews there?
- born-again of the Spirit of God before Paul was (Acts 9)

v8-11 Seven people, of which we know nothing else, who are described as

- my beloved
- our helper/co-laborer
- approved...tried and proven position before man
- my kinsman...Jew
- in the Lord position before God
- in Christ

v12-13 Tryphena and Tryphosa

- females
- labored to the point of exhaustion in the Lord

As Persis did also labor

Rufus

- Mark 15:15-22
- chosen in the Lord
 - followed his father that day to Calvary
 - later came to “the foot of the Cross” and followed Jesus by faith

and his mother

- Simon's wife whose name is certainly known to the Lord
- obviously a female
- ministered to Paul as a mother would to her child

v14-15 Another group of believers Paul knows in the fellowship at Rome...
including at least 2 females (perhaps more) – Julia and Nereus' sister

Names are important...all people are important to our God

v16 Leaving no one out, a “catch-all” greeting from a “catch-all” of greeters

Those in v1-16 are all united in the faith, enjoying the blessing of worship as like-minded
believers in Jesus Christ
Precious!

v17-18 With the heart of a shepherd, Paul pleads with the flock to guard/protect their unity in
the faith, with which comes peace
He knows what damage divisions did to the fellowship there at Corinth

1 Cor 1:10-13

Accordingly, “mark” and “avoid” those that cause

- divisions
 - dissention
 - strife
 - condemnation
 - not like-minded
 - not in one accord
 - not in unity in the faith
 - not centered in Christ
- offences
 - traps
 - snares
 - stirrings contrary to
 - the doctrine you have learned
 - the apostle's doctrine
 - the Gospel of Grace
 - the grace, peace, and love of God

With the Word of God as your Final Authority in all matters,
With the Spirit of Truth as your Guide into all Truth and your Teacher of all things,
guard your hearts and minds and fellowship from all persons and doctrines that
are

- un-Christ-like
- un-Biblical
- self-serving
- carnal

Mark...take aim at
and avoid...shun, separate from
all that comes against the mind of Christ,
anything that seeks to destroy unity in the Body of Christ

Mark 3:25 a house divided against itself cannot stand

Acts 20:29-30

2 Thes 3:6

1 Tim 6:3-5

Required to mark and avoid:

- discernment – knowing the Truth so well that you easily recognize the lie
- the strong helping the weak/simple/innocent/unsuspecting

And knowing many in the fellowship in Rome and the strength of their walks (v3-15)...

v19 Their submission and compliance to the Word of God...spiritual maturity...
is widely known...in Jerusalem, in Corinth, in Ephesus, elsewhere

For which the Apostle Paul is very thankful, but every person needs reminding,
even of things we know so well

So Paul puts them into remembrance of some basic “blocking and tackling”
in following the Lord:

- be wise...great understanding, be “expert” in...of that which is good
- be simple...innocent, do not study or practice, just be aware...regarding evil

For surely these teachings of Jesus remain in effect until He returns to earth!

Matt 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye
therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matt 19:14 Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of
such is the kingdom of heaven.

Know the Lord and seek Him...leave the evil to Him

v20 The God of peace

Rom 15:5, 13, 33

Is 9:6 Prince of Peace

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

will...a promise of God sometime in the future

bruise...crush

Satan...the slanderer, accuser of the brethren, father of lies, author of confusion

under our feet...the place of a defeated enemy, the place of one conquered

(because 1 John 4:4)

shortly...in short order, in God's perfect time

Satan is already defeated and we have been set free

1 Cor 2:6-8

Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

But the devil is still "on the loose"

1 Peter 5:8-9a Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith

James 4:7b Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Eph 6:10-12 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

Rev 12:9-10 the accuser of the brethren will be cast down to earth...

banished from heaven and confined to earth

Rev 20:1-3 the devil will be bound in chains and cast into hell for 1000 yrs

Rev 20:10 the devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity

Until the fulness of God's plan is accomplished, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us!

Matt 28:20

His grace is greater than all the sin of all people of all time (Rom 5:20)

His grace is sufficient for us as we follow Him in a cursed and fallen world

(2 Cor 12:9a)

v21-23 Now, as Paul greeted those in Rome, those with Paul also greet those in Rome

- Timothy
 - workfellow/co-laborer
 - son in the faith
 - Jew

- Lucius
 - Acts 13:1-3 one of the prophets and teachers in Antioch who, directed by the Holy Spirit, laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them on the 1st Missionary Journey
 - Jew

- Jason
 - Acts 17:5-9 In Thessalonica, on Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey, the Jews who did not believe the Gospel were moved with envy and assaulted Jason, bringing him before the city leaders on false charges of sedition
 - Jew

- Sosipater
 - Acts 20:4 of Berea who will accompany Paul from Corinth to Asia after this letter is given to Phebe to carry to Rome
 - Jew

- Tertius
 - "secretary recorder" of Paul's dictation
 - 2 Cor 12:7
 - Gal 6:11

- Gaius
 - Acts 19:29 a travelling companion of Paul on this 3rd Missionary Journey who was accosted by the worshippers of Diana in Ephesus
 - Acts 20:4 of Derbe, who will also accompany Paul from Corinth to Asia after this letter is given to Phebe to carry to Rome
 - 1 Cor 1:14 baptized by Paul in Corinth

- the whole church...at Corinth

- Erastus...City Manager of Corinth (a believer in Gov't!!!)
 - Acts 19:22 earlier on this 3rd Missionary Journey was sent by Paul with Timothy from Ephesus to minister to the saints in Macedonia (Berea, Thessalonica, Philippi)
 - 2 Tim 4:20 remained in Corinth...faithfully stayed on his post
 - also martyred in 67AD by Nero, as were Paul and Peter
- Quartus

v24 Paul repeats what he just said (v20b)...in case we already forgot
 Grace: ESSENTIAL in the life of a follower of Jesus Christ!
 We must be continually reminded!

v25-27 To conclude this doctrine of Grace:
 Now to Him (v25a), to God only wise (v27a)
 be glory forever thru Jesus Christ

The God we serve is able to establish and strengthen us by

- the Gospel (of grace, Eph 2:8-9)
- the preaching of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 2:2, John 11:25-26, John 5:24, John 3:16)

The mysteries of God

- God
 - The Messiah/Christ/Savior
 - Plan of Redemption for fallen man
 - Israel
 - The Church
 - The Gospel, the power of God unto salvation for whosoever believes
- were spoken of by the prophets and recorded in the Hebrew Scriptures,
 albeit "darkly"

are now

- revealed
 - made manifest/apparent
 - to all nations...in the fulness of time
 - common language (Greek)
 - Roman Empire (roads)
- for what God has always wanted from man –
- obedience by faith (Hab 2:4)
 - believing and trusting what He has said and submitting willingly to it

And so ends this masterpiece of doctrine, the doctrine of grace

- Established in Ch 1-8
- Evidenced in Ch 9-11
- Applied in Ch 12-15
- Assured in Ch 16 (v20b, v24-27)

ALL glory be to God, the God of peace!

Application/Exhortation

Keywords (verbs) that manifest grace in our lives

- receive
- assist
- greet/salute

Descriptors of those who walk by faith in the grace of God:

- servant
- co-laborer
- helper position before man
- approved
- beloved

- chosen
- in the Lord position before God
- in Christ

Consider all the names of individuals memorialized forever in the Word of God!

But grasp the reality that the names of all the servants of the Lord...including yours and mine...
are written for all eternity in the Lamb's Book of Life!
And that is so ONLY by grace!

Ours is a fellowship...a house church...of whom few know anything about

But...our Lord knows and by His grace we are

- servants
- co-laborers
- helpers
- approved
- beloved
- chosen

- in the Lord
- in Christ

After this letter...written during Acts 20:1-3a...

Paul starts his journey to Jerusalem (Acts 19:21, Acts 20:3b), accompanied by Acts 20:4

Timothy does not accompany Paul to Jerusalem, rather 1 Tim 1:3 when left Achaia,
entered Macedonia on his way to Judea

Does this happen at Acts 20:6?

Next week, after looking at the start of Paul's journey to Jerusalem with the love offering from
the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (Rom 15:25-27)...

1st Timothy