

Scripture: Romans 16

OPEN:

1. Paul names over 25 people in this chapter — some well-known, others obscure. If someone were writing a spiritual thank-you list including you, what would you hope they'd say about your impact?

DIG:

1. What does Paul's long list of greetings in Romans 16 tell us about the nature of early Christian community and relationships? What can we learn from his personal connections about how we view church today?
2. Why do you think Paul emphasizes both male and female leaders in this chapter (e.g., Phoebe, Priscilla, Mary, Junia)? How should this influence our understanding of gender roles in the church?
3. Paul warns against those who cause divisions in verses 17 – 18. What kinds of divisions are most dangerous in churches today, and how can they be handled wisely?
4. Paul describes the obedience of the Roman believers as something that brings him joy (v. 19). What does real obedience to Christ look like in a modern context? Can it still be joyful?
5. The letter ends with a doxology that credits God with establishing the Gospel (vv. 25 – 27). How do we balance human responsibility (like Paul's mission) with God's sovereignty in spreading the Gospel?

REFLECT:

1. Romans 16 shows people serving in all kinds of ways — from hosting churches to helping leaders. What are some practical ways you could use your gifts right now to build up your church or small group?
2. Paul warns the church to watch out for people who stir up division (vv. 17 – 18). Have you ever seen disunity in a church or group setting? What helps prevent it, and how can you personally contribute to unity?