

May 4, 2023

Romans Lesson 16

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## Romans 15:14

“admonish” = NOUTHETEO  
“nouthetic counselling”

= to put in mind or call attention to; encouraging, warning, and advising.

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- Romans 12:1 “...**present your bodies** a living and holy **sacrifice**...which is your spiritual **service** of worship.”
- Phil 2:17 “even if I am being poured out as a drink **offering** upon the **sacrifice and service** of your faith, I rejoice....”
- 1 Peter 2:5 “You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to **offer up spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”
- Heb 13:15 “...let us **offer the sacrifice of praise** to God continually”

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“from Jerusalem round about as far as Illyricum”



“...he left to go to Macedonia.  
When he had gone through those districts...” Acts 20:1-3

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Rom 15:26-28 The purpose and reason for the gift:

- v.26 to provide for the “poor” believers in Jerusalem enduring famine, persecution.
- v. 27 to continue to build the relationship between the Jewish and Gentile believers.
- v.28 to “put a seal on their fruit;” verify the genuineness of the faith of the Gentiles.

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Rom 15:30 “strive together...in your prayers” SUNAGONIZOMAI

We get our word “agony” from this word.

Col 4:12 “laboring earnestly...in prayer”

James 5:16 “...the effectual fervent prayer ... avails much.”

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Rom 15:30-32 Paul’s 3 prayer requests:

1. That he would be rescued from the disobedient (unbelievers) in Jerusalem.
2. That they would accept the gift.
3. That he would be able to come to Rome for refreshing rest in their company.

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Acts tells “the rest of the story”

Acts 21:17 Paul arrives in Jerusalem where “the brethren received us gladly” –2nd prayer request was answered.

Acts 21:27-37 Paul seized in the temple by unbelieving Jews; taken into protective custody by Roman soldiers.

Acts 22 & 23 A plot to kill Paul was uncovered, and he was taken into protective custody by 200 Roman soldiers to Caesarea in the middle of the night. –his 1st prayer request was answered.

Acts 24-26 Paul was kept in prison in Caesarea for more than 2 years; Paul appeals to Caesar to end the unjust imprisonment.

Acts 28:14, 30 Paul arrived at Rome and was there for at least 2 years under house arrest–his 3rd prayer was answered.

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### Highlights from the “greetings” in Romans 16:

16:1-2 **Phoebe**: a “servant” of the church at Cenchrea

DIAKONOS = “servant” → emphasizes her service to the church

v.2 “that you may **help her**...for she herself has also been **a helper of many**, and **of myself as well**.” possibly carried the letter to Rome.

16:3-5a **Prisca (Priscilla) & Aquila**; Acts 18; church met in their home both in Ephesus and later in Rome; fellow-workers; “risked their own necks” –possibly refers to riot in Ephesus, Acts 19:23-20:1.

16:5 **Epaenetus** = beloved, 1st convert to Christ from Asia-Minor, possibly from Ephesus. Roman inscription: “Epenetus, an Ephesian.”

16:6 **Mary** “worked hard for you.”

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### Highlights from the “greetings” in Romans 16:

16:7 **Andronicus & Junias** –husband and wife; “kinsmen” = Jewish; “fellow-prisoners” = had also been persecuted for Christ; “outstanding among the apostles” = had a good reputation; “in Christ before me” = had come to faith before Paul did.

16:10 “**household of Aristobulus**” = refers to all who are in a person’s estate/household—servants, employees, extended family.

Aristobulus = was the grandson of Herod the Great, son of Herod Agrippa I; was taken to Rome with Agrippa and died 48-49 AD.

16:11 **Herodian** = a fellow Jewish man; related to Herod.

“**household of Narcissus**” = a well-known freedman who served Emperor Claudius; executed by order of Nero’s mother, and all his slaves would have become imperial property known as Narcissiani.

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### Highlights from the “greetings” in Romans 16:

16:12 **Tryphaena & Tryphosa**: from the same root word; probably sisters, perhaps twins.

16:13 **Rufus**, “a choice man in the Lord, and his mother and mine”; Paul viewed Rufus’ mother as his own; “a choice man” –possible connection to crucifixion account in Mark 15:21.

Mark 15:21 “They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (*the father of Alexander and Rufus*), to bear His cross.”

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The message of Christianity had reached to all levels of society:

Common slave names: Ampliatus, Rufus, Hermes, Philologus, Julia

Prominent freedmen: Narcissus, Asyncritus, Patrobas

Members of the Imperial household: Andronicus, Apelles, Nereus

Jewish nobility: Aristobulus, Herodian

Persian woman: Persis

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“Everything hints at a fellowship that transcends all barriers of race, culture, and sex; they are all one in Christ Jesus”  
(cp. Gal 3:28).

14

Rom 16:17-20 Final words of caution:

“keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances...and turn away from them.”

present tense verbs = continuous action

“keep on keeping your eye on those...keep on turning away from them”

15

Rom 16:25-27 Paul’s beautiful benediction:

One sentence summarizing Romans:

- Establish them according to the gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ; wanted them to be grounded in the doctrine detailed in Romans.
- The revelation of the mystery now manifested, given by prophets, but now made known to all nations; the promise of a Savior made first to Israel would extend to all peoples!

16

Note the main clause of v.25-27:

(v.25) “Now **to Him**...(v.27) to the only wise God...**be glory forever**”

Romans 11:33 “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!”

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