

## Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study

Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#

Zoom Meeting ID 863 1188 9288, Passcode 782781

Facebook™ Live @unionbethelameccary

Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

### Romans 16:1-23



### Romans 16:1-16

**1** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, **2** so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. **3** Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, **4** and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. **5** Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. **6** Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. **7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. **8** Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. **9** Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. **10** Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. **11** Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. **12** Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. **13** Greet Rufus, chosen in the

*Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to me also. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them. 15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.*

Paul opens this last chapter with a greeting that highlights specific people. He speaks fondly of each person. Their gifts and place in the work for spreading the Gospel is aligned with each person and their interaction with Paul during his travels.

**What are the different roles each of the people in the opening greeting play in the life of Paul and his missionary work?**

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### **Romans 16:17-18**

*17 I urge you, brothers and sisters, to keep an eye on those who cause dissensions and offenses, in opposition to the teaching that you have learned; avoid them. 18 For such people do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the simple-minded.*

Paul just says to keep an eye on those who cause trouble. He does not ask for those persons to be removed from the fellowship. He does warn that smooth-talking people will deceive those who cannot discern the truth.

**How do we keep an eye on someone we know is causing a problem in the church?**

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**How do we correct someone without causing further problems?**

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## How do we protect those young in the faith from smooth-talking people in the church?

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### **Romans 16:19-20**

**19** For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise in what is good and guileless in what is evil. **20** The God of peace will shortly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

To be guileless is to be innocent. Paul asked that the people use wisdom to follow righteousness. Paul indicates that through the power of peace God will crush Satan under the feet of the saints.

## How can we imagine peace will defeat God's enemy?

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## What does that say for how we should handle our enemies?

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### **Romans 16:21-27**

**21** Timothy, my co-worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my relatives. **22** I Tertius, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord. **23** Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. **25** Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages **26** but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— **27** to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Paul closes this letter with a final set of greetings and a benediction. The benediction also closes the book of Romans. Paul's final words are to the Gentiles to clarify that God's redemption through Christ Jesus is also for those who are not Jewish. Paul highlights that we glorify the only wise God by accepting God's son, Jesus the Christ.

### **Why is the benediction important?**

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