



With a Little Help from My Friends

By Johnny Caruso on June 23, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 16

Paul ends the book of Romans with the names of the people, both men and women, who helped him in the ministry of the gospel. Little did they know their names would be read in the future by so many and inspire so many. If I counted correctly, there are 37 people Paul mentions, 29 men and 8 women.

What I am about to write may be misunderstood, so please read the whole devotion. Do not just click away. I want to mention the woman, Phoebe. She was a sister in the Lord, a servant/slave to the church at Cenchræe. Cenchræe was the port of Corinth, located about nine miles east of the city. The word translated as *servant* is *diákonos*, which is where we get our word *deacon*. Now before anyone who knows of my conservative roots freaks out, this was not a church governmental office. Phoebe had taken on leadership in several ministries in the church. She took on some responsibility. We do not know whether it was material, physical or spiritual, but apparently was she was very faithful in it.

Phoebe was so profitable to Paul and his ministry that in verse 2 Paul commends her to the church at Rome. He says they should treat her in a manner worthy of saints. Phoebe was the person who carried the letter from Corinth where the letter was written to the church in Rome.

Women are very important to the life of the church, and some carry prominent positions. We are to honor them and love them as Christ loves them. Trish (my wife) has had many godly women speak into her life that I have profited from. She also does the same with younger women. As pastors at FBC Fort Mill, we cheer on the women of our church whom God has called and sealed with a price to carry out the gospel ministry to a lost and dying world.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for the women in my life and in the life of our fellowship that You have called and set apart to further the gospel.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 20

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