

**d) The gospel aims at “the obedience of faith” (16:26b)**

- The gospel is “...to bring about the obedience of faith”. [1:5 “to bring about the obedience of faith...”]
- Proper response to the Gospel is an obedient life – which God has created for us to live out (Eph. 2:10)

*“To believe on Christ is to live for him, to obey him. Justification is the first moment of sanctification. Right belief leads to right standing with God, which itself leads to right living for God.” ~ Grant Osborne*

**e) The gospel showcases God’s Wisdom and Glory (16:27)**

- The gospel comes from “the only wise God”. [1:5 “for the sake of his name” and 1:17 “in it the righteousness of God is revealed”]
- The gospel reveals God’s wisdom [11:33 “Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”]
- Through a united and multi-ethnic church, God can especially receive glory. And all this is only through Jesus Christ – he is the One who makes the gospel known and possible.

*“This is a fitting end to this epistle that teaches that all salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ. It was his act of love (5:8), his atoning sacrifice (3:25), that has brought all this about, and our faith in him (3:21-4:25) that brings us justification to eternal life (4:25; 6:23).” ~ Grant Osborne*

**Schedule:**

- We conclude Romans next week (7/20).

**Previous Handouts**

- Online: [www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school](http://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school)

**Credits:**

Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:

- *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
- *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
- *Teaching Romans, Volume Two: Unlocking Romans 9-16 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]
- *Paul’s Letter to the Romans (PNTC)* by Colin G. Kruse [Eerdmans, 2012]

**VI. The Letter Closing (15:14-16:27)**

**A. Paul’s Ministry and Travel Plans (15:14-33)**

**B. Commendation of Phoebe (16:1-2)**

- Sister... [one of the] saints; Letter-carrier; Servant [or Deacon]; Patron; Worthy of Help.
- Could call her a “deaconess” in the church (1 Tim. 3:11)

*“...it is likely that deacons were charged with visitation of the sick, poor relief, and perhaps financial oversight.” ~ Doug Moo*

**C. Greetings to Roman Christians (16:3-15) [26 names, 3+ churches]**

**1. Those Associated with Paul’s Mission (16:3-7)**

- a) Prisca and Aquila, and the church in their house
  - Close fellow workers with Paul since Corinth (Acts 18:2) fellow tentmakers (18:3); ministered in Ephesus with Paul (18:18; 1 Cor. 16:19); taught Apollos (18:26).
  - Prisca/Priscilla, the wife, was often mentioned first (4 of 6x).
- b) Epaphroditus “beloved”, Mary “worked hard for you”
- c) Andronicus and Junia
  - Likely a husband and wife ministry team, also spent time in jail for the cause of Christ (like Paul or with him).
  - “Well known/noteworthy to” or “noteworthy among” the apostles. Is Junia (a woman) being referred to as an apostle?

*“Paul often uses the title ‘apostle’ in a ‘looser’ sense: sometimes simply to denote a ‘messenger’ or ‘emissary’ and sometimes to denote a ‘commissioned missionary’.” ~ Doug Moo*

**2. Friends and Acquaintances of Paul (16:8-15)**

- a) Ampliatus, Urbanus, Stachys, Apelles
- b) Those of the house of Aristobulus [possibly a church]
- c) Herodion and those of the house of Narcissus [possibly a church]
- d) Tryphaena and Tryphosa and Persis, Rufus and his Mother
- e) Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and those with them [i.e. that church]
- f) Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all those with them [i.e. that church]

### 3. General Greetings to All (16:16)

- a) Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- b) All the churches of Christ greet you.

## D. Final Warning, Affirmation and Promise (16:17-20)

### 1. Warning about False Teachers (16:17-19)

- Setting for Paul's warning:
  - Unusual to interrupt his greetings with a harsh warning.
  - Perhaps the churches greetings reminded him of false teachers harming churches, or he just learned of a new threat coming.
- What is Paul warning about?
  - Those causing divisions and stumbling blocks.
  - Those teaching contrary to received doctrine (cf. 6:17).
  - Possibly early gnostic libertines or Judaizers.
- Why listen to the warning? Why avoid them?
  - Their hypocrisy – they don't serve Christ (like it seems), instead they serve their bellies/appetites/flesh (cf. Phil. 3:19).
  - Their deceit – they use smooth talk and flattery to mislead the innocent/naïve.
- Why are the Romans susceptible?
  - Their innocence/goodness which is a joy to Paul, could leave them vulnerable. (See also Eph. 4:14-16.)

### 2. Promise of Deliverance (16:20a)

- Context – Applies in general, but especially in light of his warning.
- Promise – “God will soon crush Satan under your feet.”

*“God crushes Satan, but... he does it ‘under your feet’. That is to say the instrument God uses to crush Satan is the church of Christ, who are ‘in Christ’ the corporate fulfilment of the ‘seed of the woman’.” ~ C. Ash*

- Timing – Already begun, but to be fully realized at Christ's coming.

### 3. Benediction (16:20b)

- Paul prays for Jesus Christ's grace to be with them all – a benediction he includes in each closing in all his letters.

## E. Greetings from Paul's Coworkers (16:21-23) [8 of his associates]

- Timothy – Paul's closest fellow worker.
- Lucius – Could be Luke?
- Jason – Possibly known from Acts 17:5-9)

- Sosipater – possibly “Sopater the Berean” (Acts 20:4) who accompanied Paul to Jerusalem to give the offering.
- Tertius – the scribe who penned Romans.
- Gaius – possibly the Gaius of Corinth (1 Cor. 1:14).
- Erastus – possibly known in Acts 19:21-22; 2 Tim. 4:20; and an inscription found in Corinth may reference him.
- Quartus – “our brother”

## F. Concluding Doxology (16:24-27)

### 1. Text

- The text of the doxology (16:25-27) appears in several different places in some of the manuscripts
- Most Bible versions do not consider v. 24 as original.
- Many commentators think v. 25-27 are not original, but most conservative evangelicals accept it and Bibles include it.
- The doxology ties in to chapter 1 (the frame of the letter) and it also summarizes or concludes his message.

### 2. Teaching of the Doxology

#### a) The gospel is about Jesus Christ (16:25a; cf. 1:1-4)

- Paul's gospel is: “preaching of Jesus Christ”. [1:3 “concerning his Son.”]
- God is able to strengthen you [plural] according to the gospel.

#### b) The gospel is proclaimed in the OT Scriptures (16:25b-26)

- The gospel is according to the revelation of the mystery.
- The gospel “has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings” [i.e., the OT]. [1:2 “promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures”]
- It was kept hidden/secret for long ages, but
- It is now being disclosed (through Paul's preaching, and writing).

#### c) The gospel is made known to all nations and reveals the mystery of the end-time conversion of Gentiles (16:26b)

- The gospel is made known to and includes the conversion of Gentiles.
- The gospel is “made known to all nations...”. [1:5 “to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.”]